

Hafa Adai!

Cape Air down again
this month.

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Woman gets 1-day prison
term for bank fraud.

» PAGE 4

Saipan Tribune

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'Crimes in the CNMI staggering'



Foul air, backflow, crumbling walls, and an unsightly pool of water describe the Garapan's open-air canal, which runs into the nearby lagoon. Public and private stakeholders look to its repair.

DENNIS B. CHAN

BSI eyes repair of Garapan canal

By DENNIS B. CHAN
dennis_chan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The polluted and unsightly open-air canal in Garapan—an eyesore for tourist and residents alike—may soon be remedied.

Best Sunshine International, Ltd., which is planning to build a casino on Saipan, and government officials confirmed yesterday that BSI is leaning toward fixing the open-air canal right beside their Garapan property.

The canal has been noted as dangerous and foul

smelling. Parts of its wall are crumbling. Tourists walk the sidewalk beside it. And government officials removed a fallen traffic sign from its water last year.

Department of Public Works Secretary James Ada said yesterday they have been sitting down with the Bureau of Environmental and Coastal

See BSI on Page 4

» Over 15,000 crimes, traffic incidents, criminal complaints last year alone

» DPS chief tells cops it's time to take swift, decisive actions in war on 'ice'

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Just last year alone, more than 15,000 crimes, car collisions, and criminal complaints were reported to the Department of Public Safety in the CNMI, a number that, according to DPS Commissioner James C. Deleon Guerrero, is a “staggering” sad reality.

On the methamphetamine or “ice” problem alone, Deleon Guerrero disclosed that over the last two years, the joint DPS, Customs, and U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration Task Force seized over \$720,000 worth of “ice” off the streets and confiscated over \$84,000 in assets in the process.

Deleon Guerrero discussed crimes and his war on “ice” in his speech during the grand opening of the Commonwealth

See CRIMES on Page 4

INSIDE

WORLD

Audio from a jet that crashed shows a pilot was locked out of the cockpit.

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OFF THE WALL

A cow in Texas has defied great odds to give birth to four calves.

» PAGE 23

LIFE & STYLE

And then there were four: Zayn Malik is leaving boy band One Direction.

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Local

Cape Air down again this month

Cape Air/United Express cancelled their flights between Guam and the CNMI yesterday due to maintenance issues.

To accommodate affected passengers, United provided extra flights last night using a Boeing 737-700 aircraft.

According to Cape Air/United public relations office, the United jet was scheduled to depart Guam on March 26 at 8pm and is expected to arrive on Rota at 8:33pm. Then, the flight is scheduled to depart Rota at 9:08pm and arrive on Saipan at 9:31pm. The flight will then depart Saipan at 10:06pm and arrive in Guam at 10:46pm.

"Our support teams in Guam, Saipan, and Rota are provid-

ing assistance to passengers to make the necessary arrangements for them to complete their travel," said Cape Air in a statement. "We realize this is an inconvenience to our customers and we apologize for the disruption."

Their ATR42 aircraft was reportedly sitting at the Fran-

cisco C. Ada International Airport last night.

The month of March has seen a slew of cancelled flights. Earlier this month, flights were cancelled for as long as a week, also due to reported technical issues. Some flights were cancelled in February and January. **(Dennis B. Chan)**

Inos issues \$15M guarantee to fund stalled CUC projects

Gov. Eloy S. Inos has affirmed that the CNMI government will meet its \$15-million funding obligation for 2016 to 2018 for the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s stalled projects.

Inos issued a letter on Mon-

day that serves as a financial guarantee that the CNMI will meet its financial obligation of \$15 million. The letter was addressed to U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 9

See TINIAN on Page 4

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DPS' opinion sought on car-tinting exemption for officials

By JOEL D. PINAROC
joel_pinaroc@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Comments from the Department of Public Safety are needed regarding a proposed bill on a car window tinting exemption for elected officials.

According to House Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero (Ind-Saipan), he expects DPS Commissioner James C. De-

leon Guerrero to weigh in on the proposed bill.

The proposed bill was introduced by Sen. Francisco Q. Cruz (R-Tinian). Senate Bill 19-28 seeks to exempt vehicles used by elected officials from window tinting restrictions and government license plate requirements.

The Senate passed the bill last week; it now heads to the House of Representatives.

"What we will do is, once we receive it, we will pass it to the proper committee and wait for the DPS to give comments and recommendations," the House speaker said.

Depending on what the comments are from DPS, the House of Representatives can then introduce amendments, he added.

Cruz earlier said the proposal to exempt elected officials from

the ban on car window tinting is about security and safety and nothing more.

"This bill is for the security and safety of elected officials," Cruz said, adding that the proposed bill will serve no other purpose.

Cruz said he feels that this measure is "very urgent, very important," adding that his own personal experience during the

17th Legislature was one of the reasons he filed the bill.

"My car was shot [at] twice during the 17th Legislature in 2011, so I feel this is very urgent, very important," he said. "Unlike in other countries, we do not have security here."

The senator said it is the prerogative of other lawmakers to have a different view of the proposed law, but there is "no need

to make this an issue."

According to the proposed bill, "this will ensure that elected officials cannot be easily attacked while traveling on the road or in a parked vehicle."

Other lawmakers, however, said the bill is not necessary and not urgent.

Man back in court after just being sentenced to prison 3 weeks ago

Superior Court Associate Judge David A. Wiseman expressed disbelief yesterday that a habitual offender he just slapped with a six-day prison term some weeks ago was in court again for allegedly harassing and shouting profanities at a former girlfriend.

Wiseman told Joseph Jones Villagomez that he just accepted three weeks ago a lenient plea agreement in a previous domestic violence case.

Despite Villagomez's numerous crimes in the past, Wiseman said he accepted the plea agreement, hoping that this time Villagomez will learn his lesson.

This time, Wiseman im-

posed a \$5,000 cash bail on the suspect.

Villagomez, 41, was arrested on Monday for disturbing the peace and criminal trespass.

Police detective Vincent A. Igisaia stated in his report that Villagomez went to the house of his former girlfriend in As Terlaje on Sunday night and shouted at her for help because his car had just crashed. The woman refused because her children were already sleeping and she did not want to leave them.

Villagomez shouted profanities at her and left the house. Later at 12am, he returned to the house and pounded on the door. When she refused to open it,

Villagomez threatened to break the door. She then called police.

Early this month, Wiseman

imposed a six-day prison term on Villagomez for violating a court order by insisting on see-

ing his children at the home of his former girlfriend in San Roque. *(Ferdie de la Torre)*

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Kagman commercial farmers begin replanting

Farmers in the Kagman commercial plot, a large supplier to the Garapan Public Market, have begun replanting crops after Tropical Storm Bavi hit recently.

CNMI Farmer's Cooperative secretary Isidoro Cabrera said the farmers are recovering what they have left.

Some 30 to 40 farmers grow crops around the Kagman commercial farm plot. A majority are members of the co-op, which runs the public market.

"There is still produce but there will be low production this week and next week," Cabrera said. "It's going to start picking up next week and the following."

Cabrera said the market still has some produce, minus Chinese cabbage and string beans. Tomatoes and eggplants are still coming in but no leafy vegetables, he said.

Cucumbers, which are very susceptible to rain damage, he

See Kagman on Next Page

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Mariana Resort & Spa

Arago has compatriots 'in his heart'

By DENNIS B. CHAN
dennis_chan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Recently confirmed Philippine honorary consul Eli Arago will look to the wants and needs of his countrymen in the CNMI.

The Philippine Consulate General in Guam announced Wednesday that Arago has been confirmed by the U.S. State Department as honorary consul.

In an interview, Arago said that Consul General Marciano De Borja pushed his appoint-

ment, passing on his selection to the U.S. State Department for confirmation.

He said Borja told him that there are formalities to be done first before he assumes the responsibilities as honorary consul, which includes processing reports of birth and other documents, not including passports.

This could be done as soon as



Arago

in May or June.

Arago said he believes his office at JP Center is "enough to handle the job," noting that he thinks his Tan Holdings family will support him.

"It's about utilizing the resources that you have, the people. And as I've said, leadership will count. If you know how to lead, it's easy," he said.

He said he would try his

best to exercise what is expected of him as honorary consul. "I know I can help my *kababayans* [compatriots]. I believe people will share with me what they need and what they want. I can't promise anything at this time but one thing I'm sure of is, I will really help our *kababayans* because it's in my heart."

Right now the CNMI has no Philippine consulate. Arago, who is the senior vice president of Tan Holdings, becomes the Guam consulate general office's representative to the CNMI.

2nd Women's Summit on Monday, Tuesday

The second Women's Summit hosted by the CNMI Women's Association will take place Monday and Tuesday next week at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe.

CNMI Women's Association chair Rep. Felicidad T. Ogu-moro (R-Saipan) said the summit seeks to highlight the CWA's mission, which is to ensure that women are fully engaged in the political, economic, and social development of the CNMI. It is also in line with this month's

celebration of Women's Month.

"When CWA was put together, we worked to ensure that we have a strategic plan that included our vision, mission, and goals. We wanted to make sure that it was put out and we refer to those every time and not lose track of what we have to do," Ogu-moro said.

"This will help because we will eventually have women fully participating and fully engaged in the development of the CNMI," she added.

The first Women's Summit was in 2013. Limited funding scotched last year's summit.

"The participants put together a number of priority areas that we need to look at [during the first Women's Summit.] We took all those issues and put it all together and came up with our strategic plan. That was important because we gathered all our thoughts and helped develop a draft plan and then the board adopted it and since then we followed it," she said.

The second Women's Summit will start on Monday, March 30, from 7am to 4pm. It will include introductory and opening remarks and two separate topics with a panel.

The two topics include "Empowering Women as Leaders" and "Women in the Workforce." Following the discussions will be an evaluation.

On Tuesday, March 31, it will begin at 7am and end at 4:15pm that includes two discussions: "Cultural Preservation and Practices" and "Promoting Healthier Lifestyles." (Jayson Camacho)

Govt continues repair, improvement of Saipan roads

The government is continuing road improvements throughout Saipan, the latest of which is a road-marking and signage project in Route 37 (Chalan Monsignor Martinez Road) and Route 321 (Santa Lourdes Road).

In a groundbreaking ceremony on Thursday morning, Lt. Gov. Ralph DLG. Torres said the project is part of the government's "islandwide" improvement.

"Today marks our ongoing efforts to improve our island's road-marking and signage upgrades," Torres, in a prepared speech, said. "The completion of the upgrades is scheduled before Thanksgiving."

Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang said the road-marking and signage project "is important for motorists and pedestrians" from the nearby communities.

According to the project contract information sheet, the project

will be managed by the Department of Public Works, with private firm Big Bell, Inc. as the construction contractor.

Funding of \$298,619 will come from the Federal Highway Administration.

The project includes reha-

bilitation of road markings, upgrade of traffic signage, and road-shoulder reconditioning.

(Joel D. Pinaroc)



Lt. Gov. Ralph DLG. Torres, center, is flanked by government and Public Works officials during the groundbreaking ceremony of a road marking and signage upgrade project in Route 37 and Route 321 in Dandan.

JOEL D. PINAROC

BSI

From Page 1

Quality over the past month on plans for the greater Garapan revitalization project.

Two focuses are waste and storm drainages, he said.

He noted that Best Sunshine could help "work on the canal system" and "make a new design."

To "reconstruct and make it new. Cement and cover it up a little," he said. "We are working together as a team in closing those drainages. Our people go on that pathway to go to [hotels]."

Best Sunshine legal counsel Charles McDonald confirmed yesterday that they have had talks with DPW to solve issues with the canal.

"We haven't finalized that but it could very well be," he said.

When asked, he said they are considering having an entrance to their property in the area, but they are also "negotiating for another entrance."

"We are leaning toward helping DPW," he said.

In an interview this week, BECQ administrator Frank Rabauliman said BSI would benefit from this project.

"They have a lot of stake, basically," he said, with plans for buildings nearby and a possible main entrance near a road close to Fiesta Resort and Spa.

He noted that BSI has informally talked about wanting to put the canal underground. "But further to that I think there needs to be some kind of purification system, be it a ponding basin to

filter whatever discharge goes out into water," he added.

Asked to comment, BECQ watershed coordinator Kaitlin Mattos, who leads interagency conservation efforts in the area, noted that maintenance of drainages that are repaired is also key.

"The problem with just closing off a drainage like that is that you have to make sure you can get back in there to clean it. Just because it's closed off from large trash or things, it doesn't mean that we are not still going to have sediment or things coming in from upland," she said yesterday.

"It will be really important to make sure we can all collaborate on a plan and on funding, not just for the initial project but longer maintenance," she added.

She pointed at how the canal's walls are beginning to collapse, among other problems.

"You can see some of the inlets that lead into that open drain—those feed from underground drainages elsewhere. So anytime you have an underground drain feeding out into a larger canal...anything that's being dumped into that area is going to be dumped into that drain," she said.

Depending on who's maintaining the roads, the storm drains, or who is leasing the properties nearby, she said it's "really key to get all those players discussing together."

Rabauliman noted that it is "encouraging" that BSI seems receptive to helping them in the early stages of construction on their property.

CRIMES

From Page 1

Bureau of Investigation Building behind the DPS Bureau of Motor Vehicle in Susupe.

While there were 15,000 incidents reported last year, the commissioner said DPS now has less than 100 police officers on Saipan to handle them.

That's not including non-essential services the public expects the police to provide. Deleon Guerrero said these range from funerals, religious processions, and public and private education fundraisers to marathons, non-government service provider fundraisers, bike races, triathlons, fun runs, to name a few.

"The taxation against our department's fiscal, physical, and human resources is enormous. We need help and we need it now," he said.

Over the next few months, DPS will begin hiring more than 20 police officers or cadets, depending on the qualification of applicants that are made available through the CNMI Office of Personnel Management.

Deleon Guerrero said this will allow DPS to allocate more personnel to CBI and critical first response functions of the department like patrol and the Community Oriented Policing Services project.

This, however, will not be enough to meet the current demands, so he is appealing for assistance wherever they can get them.

On war on "ice," Deleon Guerrero said the solutions to the problems are not complicated to implement, but do require political courage to carry it out.

In the same way that DPS and Division of Customs have been cleaning their own houses, the commissioner urged other law enforcement, regulatory and government entities to adopt rules that call for the expulsion of members found to be involved in drug possession or drug trafficking-related activities.

"We need to send a message to the public that we are serious and we shall not allow anyone involved to hide under the guise

of constitutional protection at the expense of organizational integrity," he said.

Deleon Guerrero said the cost of "ice" right now is \$400 per gram, a highly profitable illegal trade that "has to be destroyed."

The commissioner recalled that since he declared a war on "ice" in January 2014, what followed were several drug-related arrests, two double murders, and a missing person who has yet to be found.

He said that when he declared a war on "ice," he warned everyone that it was going to be "long, dangerous, and expensive" to prosecute.

Deleon Guerrero said he also called for the establishment of a drug court and a process by which drug users can be rehabilitated and reintegrated back to society.

He said law enforcement cannot fight this war alone and be expected to win it. He said he is now pushing for a "shift" by taking swift and decisive actions.

He challenged all detectives assigned at CBI to find those drugs and to aggressively pursue drug offenders.

"We shall not spare anyone in the process. I want every police officer in the Commonwealth today to be actively looking for drugs and offenders every time, all the time," Deleon Guerrero said.

The commissioner urged the Legislature to provide DPS the \$200,000 they are seeking to fund the war on drugs.

"We will not only win the war on 'ice' but return the Northern Mariana Islands to the peaceful islands status we all once knew," he added.

KAGMAN

From Page 3

said, are also running short. "It'll be coming back. In one or two weeks, it'll be back to normal," he said.

In related news, Cabrera said they going to sell animal, poultry, and pig feeds starting this week or next.

He said farmers mostly use the feed but anybody can come and buy, for their fighting cocks or piggeries, for example. (Dennis B. Chan)

INOS

From Page 2

superfund division director Enrique Manzanilla.

The governor said the CNMI understands that if it fails to uphold its obligation, the U.S. government may require the Commonwealth to obtain a third-party financial guarantee.

Under the federal court's final order, by Feb. 1 of each year for the years 2016, 2017, and 2018, the CNMI must deposit \$5 million into the U.S. District Court for the NMI's court registry, or file a notice of the Department of the Interior's authorization to proceed for \$5

million to fund projects under Stipulated Order No. 2.

SO2 refers to court-mandated CUC projects that include the CUC pipeline; tank erection cleanout and testing; secondary containment; and used oil disposal, and others.

The final order also requires the CNMI to provide a financial guarantee that promises that these payments will be made.

Assistant attorney general Teresita Sablan, counsel for the CNMI, U.S. Department of Justice Environmental Enforcement Section senior attorney Bradley O'Brien, and CUC legal counsel James S. Sirok notified the court on Wednesday about Inos' financial guarantee. (Ferdie de la Torre)

Lawmakers support San Nicolas in Tinian lawsuit

By JOEL D. PINAROC
joel_pinaroc@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Tinian Mayor Joey P. San Nicolas is merely following what was written in a local law.

This was the assessment of Senators Jude U. Hofschneider (R-Tinian) and Francisco Q. Cruz (R-Tinian), when asked to comment on the lawsuit filed against San Nicolas filed by the Tinian Casino Gaming Control Commission on Tuesday.

The lawmakers said the Tinian mayor "was just following what was written in the law."

Hofschneider and Cruz are apparently referring to Tin-

ian Local Ordinance 18-3 determining Tinian's municipal budget for 2015.

Cruz said San Nicolas was just following "what we [the Tinian Legislative Delegation] passed." The law was passed in 2014.

Hofschneider and Cruz, along with Sen. Francisco Borja (Ind-Tinian), and Rep. Edwin P. Aldan (Ind-Tinian) make up the Tinian Legislative Delegation.

San Nicolas is currently being sued for allegedly refusing to pay the salaries of TCGCC executive director Lucia L. Blanco-Maratita and commis-

sion inspector Lisa-Marie B. Aguon, which the commission increased in December.

Tinian municipal treasurer Charlene M. Lizama was also named as one of the defendants in the lawsuit.

Tinian Local Ordinance 18-3 determines a \$4.281-million municipal budget from Tinian's casino industry revenue for fiscal year 2015.

Some of the provisions of the law fund the personnel and operations of the TCGCC, Tinian Municipal Treasury, and the Office of the Mayor of Tinian and Aguiguan for fiscal 2015.

In the lawsuit, the TCGCC, Blanco-Maratita, and Aguon alleged that beginning with the fourth pay period for fis-

cal year 2015, acting on San Nicolas' instructions, Lizama refused to issue paychecks to them and other affected employees in the amounts certified by the commission.

They alleged that other affected commission employees were also paid only the amounts set forth for them in the Budget Act. They asked the Superior Court to compel San Nicolas

and Lizama to remit the full salaries of affected employees.


The complainants also asked the court to invalidate three Tinian local laws that were enacted by the Tinian Legislative Delegation since 2004 that reportedly infringe on the powers of the commission.

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FOR THE 2015-2016 SCHOOL YEAR

Head Start now recruiting children, families

The CNMI Public School System Head Start Program is currently accepting applications for the 2015-2016 school year. Head Start is a federally funded pre-school program that provides comprehensive services to eligible children and families on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. Recruitment is ongoing; however, space is limited so it is important that families apply today.

Who should apply?

Families with children ages 3 and 4 including families with children who turn 5 years old after the cut-off age for Kindergarten on Sept. 30; families receiving public assistance, such as SSI; families that meet the income guidelines; families with a child who has an IEP; foster care families; and home-

less families.

How do I apply?

Natural parents or legal guardians need to complete and submit the Head Start application packet. In addition to the application packet, the following documents are needed to apply for Head Start services:

- Proof of all family income stubs for the last 12 months such as 1040 and W2, pay check stubs, statement from employer, child support, student financial aid, retirement benefits, LES;
- Child's birth certificate;
- Child's medical insurance coverage (Medicaid or private);
- Verification of participation in programs such as WIC, NAP, LIHEAP, housing assistance, if applicable;
- Parent(s)/guardian(s) photo

to identification;

■ Legal documents relating to guardianship or custody;

■ Copy of child's IEP, if your child has a disability;

■ SSI documents, if applicable.

Applications and information regarding eligibility documen-

tation are available at the Head Start office and centers or by calling 323-7446/7447 to request documents be e-mailed to you.

The Head Start Office is at 1259 Phonpei Way, Capital Hill. It is open Monday to Friday, 7:30am to 4:30pm. Head Start Center are in Chalan Kanoa, Chinatown, Dandan, Kagman, Oleai, San Antonio, Tanapag, San Jose (Tinian), Sinapalo, and Songsong (Rota).

Recruitment outreach

The Head Start Program will be conducting a recruitment outreach opportunity on April 1-2 and April 6-8, 2015, on Saipan at the Nutrition Assistance Program office in As Lito during the April NAP issuance period between 7:30am and 10am. Program staff will be prepared to distribute and receive applications on site. **(Head Start)**

Call for papers for 3rd Marianas History Conference

The Northern Marianas Humanities Council continues its call for papers for the 3rd Marianas History Conference, "One Archipelago, Many Stories," which will be held on Saipan on Sept. 4-6.

The conference will cover a full range of topics associated with the archipelago's history with a particular focus on the conference subtheme, "Milestones in Marianas History."

Research papers may be submitted under the following categories: Ancient History; Early Colonial History; Late Colonial

History; World War II; Recent (post-war); and Oral History and Genealogy.

Paper abstracts with a maximum of 150 words and the presenter's bio may be submitted online via a link in the council's website at www.northernmarianashumanities.org.

The submission deadline for abstracts is April 30, 2015.

Conference presenters will be allotted 20 minutes to present their papers and an additional 10 minutes for questions and discussion.

This year's conference, to

be held at the Saipan World Resort, will feature keynote presentations by Dr. Miguel Vilar, James Viernes, and Jessica Jordan.

Principal conference sponsors include the University of Guam, the Guam Preservation Trust, and the Northern Marianas Humanities Council. Conference planning and management support will be provided by Guampedia.

For more information about this upcoming event contact council staff at 235-4785. **(NMI Humanities Council)**

COTA presents its State Management Plan

The Section 5311 State Management Plan is intended to facilitate both state management and Federal Transportation Authority oversight by documenting the state's procedures and policies for administering the Section 5311 program. The SMP is useful to the state as well as to contractors and FTA. It is the primary basis for FTA's review of the state's program,

and provides public information on the state's administration of the Section 5311 program.

In our community, public transportation is making a real difference in the daily lives of individuals and households. For some, it provides a choice; for others it is a necessity. It connects people with health care, education, work, shopping, recreational activities, or with

friends and family.

COTA's State Management Plan is now available for review and public input. Persons interested may pick up a copy at the COTA office on the second floor of the NMIRF Building on Capital Hill, Saipan. For more information, visit the COTA website at www.COTA.gov.mp or call Alfreda Camacho at 664-2682. **(COTA)**

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or Call 234-2585/235-9020

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

The Office of the Governor, CIP Office & Maeda Pacific Corporation

Announce the start of the Garapan Water Quality Restoration project on 23 March 2015. All residents and businesses along Alaihai, Puti Tainobu, Filooris, Bukiku & Kalachucha Avenues are hereby advised that construction of a new flood control system is in progress.

Construction will cause temporary closure of the above mentioned avenues from time to time. All efforts will be taken to minimize inconvenience to the public.

Upon completion this summer, residents and businesses along these avenues will enjoy a new drainage system, sidewalks, paved driveways and brand new pavement.

The Governor & Maeda Pacific Corporation ask you to please "Pardon our Progress" as we work to improve the CNMI.

Renovated CBI building is formally opened



Department of Public Safety Commissioner James C. Deleon Guerrero, third from right, leads the special guests at the ribbon cutting for the newly renovated Commonwealth Bureau of Investigation Building in Susupe yesterday. From left are CNMI courts acting director Sonia Camacho, CNMI Probation chief Ursula L. Aldan, Drug Enforcement Administration resident agent-in-charge Mike Puralowski, Rep. George Camacho, Deleon Guerrero, Chief Prosecutor Leonardo Rapadas, and Fr. Rey Rosal.

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_deltorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Department of Public Safety officially opened yesterday its newly renovated Commonwealth Bureau of Investigation Building behind the DPS Bureau of Motor Vehicle in Susupe.

DPS Commissioner James C. Deleon Guerrero told *Saipan Tribune* that less than \$5,000 was spent on the project because members of their Logistics division, along with inmates from the Department of Corrections, worked on the repairs and repainting of the whole building. Less than \$2,500 was used to buy paint, plumbing, and roof sealant materials and about \$2,300 was spent for the signage and computer wirings.

In his speech at the opening ceremony, Deleon Guerrero said members of DPS Bureau of Infrastructure and Mission Support along with CBI detectives worked together on the renovation.

"I congratulate you all and finally, you have a place with a reasonable degree of close access to the Commonwealth courts, the prosecutor's office and the Department of Corrections," Deleon Guerrero told DPS personnel at the ceremony.

He disclosed that the building is now wired with the necessary computer hardware and fiber optic cables to connect the department's information systems to their servers.

Over the coming months, he said, DPS will also be deploying a new investigative case management system so that they may begin the process of automating the department's criminal investigative records,

among other improvements planned for the CBI.

The building used to be the Department of Corrections' Residential Substance Abuse Treatment Minimum Security. The facility is reportedly owned by the CNMI courts and DOC under a memorandum of understanding.

The building had been idle since early 2008 when DOC transferred all inmates from the old prison to its current building.

In late 2008, DPS officers

volunteered their time to transform the RSAT into the new offices of the Criminal Investigation Division (now CBI) and Traffic Section.

CBI chief Fire Lt. Kevin Aldan said the building now houses five units: the Thievery, Arson, Robbery Enforcement Section; Major Crimes Investigation Section; Special Victims Investigation Section; Special Operations Section; and the Sexual Offender Registry Section.

"Since coming to this building we have made significant progress in our fight against the war on drugs," Aldan said.

Among the guests at the ceremony were Chief Prosecutor Leonardo Rapadas, Drug Enforcement Administration agent-in-charge Mike Puralowski, Rep. George Camacho (R-Saipan), acting CNMI courts director Sonia Camacho, CNMI Probation chief Ursula L. Aldan, and press secretary Ivan Blanco.

Dear Valued Customers,

Please be advised that effective **April 13, 2015**, Megavision El Drako Tattoo will no longer be operating at Garapan, Saipan. Our new location will be at 2nd floor of BEJESS Bldg. in Marine Drive, Tamuning, Guam across Megabyte.

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Medical & Dental Coverage	\$ 104.00	\$ 208.00	\$ 304.00
<i>Maximum Annual Member Refund</i>	<i>\$ 575.00</i>	<i>\$ 1,050.00</i>	<i>\$ 1,586.00</i>

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IT&E sponsors Marianas Idol Competition

IT&E is committed to supporting the Northern Marianas College's efforts in showcasing local singing talents at its

recent 2015 Charter Day Marianas Idol Competition.

Hans Mickelson, IT&E Business Sales & Marketing manager, said: "We are doing

our very best to contribute to NMC in all the ways we can and we will continue to support NMC and its higher education programs."

IT&E awarded cell phones to go along with 4G rate plans for first, second, and third place winners.

The winners of the sing-

ing competition were Nikkie Ayuyu, who won first place with his rendition of *I'm Not the Only One* by Sam Smith; Jonathan Ada, who won sec-

ond place singing *Rude* by Magic; and Verina Saralu, who won third place with *Stars* by Grace Potter & The Nocturnals. (IT&E)



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Contestants of the Northern Marianas College's Charter Day Marianas Idol competition have their picture taken.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Nikkie Ayuyu wins first place with his rendition of *I'm Not the Only One* by Sam Smith.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Jonathan Ada wins second place singing *Rude* by Magic.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Verina Saralu wins third place with her performance of *Stars* by Grace Potter & The Nocturnals.



MAJOR SPONSOR

IT&E was a major sponsor of the recent Baba B Concert held over the weekend at Naked Fish Bar & Grill.



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Kanoa Resort

Saipan

FHB employees in Guam, NMI give \$21.6K to charities

HAGÁTÑA, Guam—First Hawaiian Bank employees in Guam and the CNMI raised a record \$21,636 for local charities during the bank's Kokua Mai employee giving campaign, according to an announcement yesterday by Laura-Lynn V. Dacanay, First Hawaiian Bank senior vice president, Guam and CNMI region manager.

"We have some of the most generous and caring employees who believe in giving back to the communities that we serve. Every Guam and CNMI region employee made a contribution to First Hawaiian's Kokua Mai annual employee giving campaign, achieving a 100 percent employee participation rate," said Dacanay. "Since Kokua Mai's 2007 inception, our employees have raised over \$152,278 for charities [in] Guam and CNMI."

First Hawaiian Bank administers the annual fundraising campaign to ensure that 100 percent of employee donations go directly to local charities. The online giving program is completely run by employees. The four-week campaign ran from Oct. 14 through Nov. 15, 2014, with employees conducting department fundraisers throughout to benefit 31 charities in Hawaii, Guam, and the CNMI. Kokua Mai charities receiving support in Guam and the CNMI include American Red Cross Guam, American Red Cross Northern Mariana Islands, Ayuda Foundation, and Make-A-Wish Foundation of Guam.

"The Ayuda Foundation used the First Hawaiian Bank employee donations to help fund our community gardening and park restoration projects in Kaiser,



Back row, Peter Valdez, FHB VP and team leader. Front row, from left to right, Lin Manalo, FHB VP Private Banking officer; Victor Camacho, Make-A-Wish Foundation of Guam executive director; Chita Blaise, American Red Cross Guam CEO; Laura-Lynn Dacanay, FHB Senior VP, Guam and CNMI Region; Carlotta Leon Guerrero, Ayuda Foundation executive director; Jose Garcia, FHB VP and Tamuning branch manager; and Maria Calvo, FHB VP and Dededo branch manager.

Dededo," said Carlotta Leon Guerrero, Ayuda Foundation executive director. "The parks and gardens help to improve the quality of life for residents in the [densest] part of our island."

"First Hawaiian Bank's continued support for Make-A-Wish through Kokua Mai underscores how its employees have gained a true understanding and appreciation for our mission in

granting wishes for kids from Guam and the Northern Marianas," said Victor Camacho, Make-A-Wish executive director. "This is just one of the many ways throughout the year that First Hawaiian Bank supports Make-A-Wish. We are grateful for their generosity and humbled by this mutually beneficial partnership."

"Financial support from donors like

First Hawaiian Bank allows the American Red Cross to bring our mission to life," said Chita Blaise, chief executive officer of American Red Cross Guam.

"The First Hawaiian bank has a long legacy of giving back to the community and supporting local humanitarian organizations. We are blessed to have them as a major donor and strategic partner. Our NMI Red Cross family is

proud to be part of the FHB Ohana," said John Hirsh, American Red Cross NMI Chapter executive director.

First Hawaiian Bank (fhb.com) with assets of \$18.1 billion was founded in Hawaii in 1858 and is the leading bank in Guam with the largest share of loans and deposits in the region. The bank operates 58 branches in Hawaii, three in Guam and two on Saipan. **(FHB)**



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Opinion

Hafa Adali

Saipan Tribune

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EDITORIAL

Don't be fooled: Netanyahu did not misspeak

Under pressure from around the world, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu apologized Monday for his cynical last-minute campaign diatribe in which he declared ominously that the Arab citizens of Israel were being bused to the polls "en masse" and were "distorting" the election by simply exercising their right to vote.

But don't be fooled: Netanyahu did not misspeak, nor did his comments come out of the blue. Rather, they are part of a disturbing, undemocratic conversation that has been underway in Israel for a long time—but which ought to come to an end.

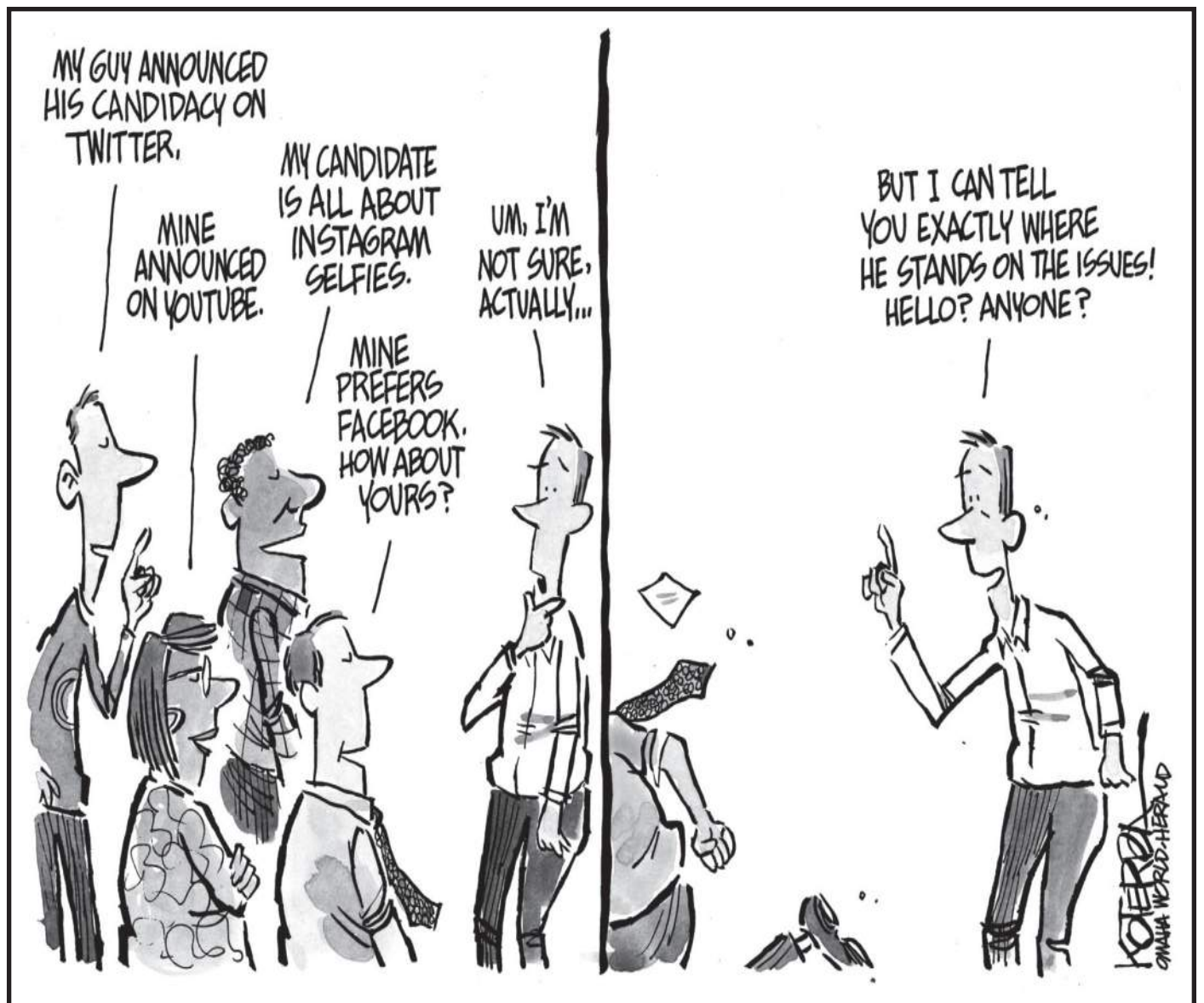
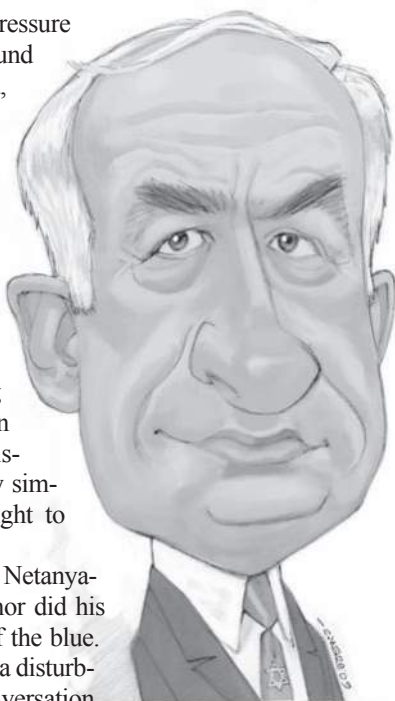
Here are a few examples. A 2013 poll by the Israeli Democracy Institute and Tel Aviv University showed that 49 percent of the Jews in Israel believed that if a peace deal were reached and put before voters for approval, Arab citizens should not be permitted to participate in the vote. In 2009, Avigdor Lieberman, who currently serves as Israel's minister of foreign affairs, argued in his campaign that Arab citizens should be required to sign loyalty oaths and accept the country's flag and national anthem. If they refused, he said, they should be stripped of their citizenship. In the 1990s, some politicians called for excluding Arab lawmakers from important Knesset votes on issues of national security.

Disenfranchising non-Jewish citizens for vital national votes and revoking their citizenship based on their political beliefs are monumentally unwise ideas that reflect a long-standing dichotomy in Israel. Since its founding, Israel has defined itself, on one hand, as a Jewish state, where Jews can feel safe and welcome after a long history of persecution and anti-Semitism. On the other hand, it has also claimed to be a democratic country, promising in its Declaration of Statehood in 1948 "complete equality of social and political rights to all its inhabitants irrespective of religion, race or sex."

So which is it? A Jewish state or a state of all its citizens? Or can it be both? Despite a long history of discrimination against its Arab citizens—including restrictions on the right to buy land and on where they can live—Israel has allowed them to vote in meaningful elections, criticize the government and run for office, rights they might not have had in many other countries in the region.

But when times get tough in Israel, when politics become tense, when violence arises, there's often a temptation to view

See **NETANYAHU** on Next Page



Freedoms a true measure of a generation's greatness

People who are deeply offended by the opinions of others often wonder: Can't we do something to shut these guys up? In extreme cases, as we've seen all too frequently lately, they take matters into their own hands, killing (or threatening to kill) those who offend them. But even much less violent souls often favor using the government to silence those they see as dangerous voices—through laws dictating fines or imprisonment for hateful or objectionable speech.

These urges are not new. In 1798, the ruling Federalist Party in the United States passed the Sedition Act, making it illegal to criticize the president or members of Congress. The Federalists weren't just trying to gain a political advantage by quelling their critics. The nation stood on the precipice of war with France, our new national government seemed weak and vulnerable, and the Federalists truly believed that their Republican (no relation to the modern party of the same name) opponents threatened to destroy the country with their evil ideas.

As the Federalists began rounding up their enemies, Americans faced their first great test of free speech: Did they intend to live up to the freedoms assured in the Bill of Rights? The specter of seeing fellow citizens jailed for using rights they had so recently fought for woke Americans up to the reality of what they stood to lose. In the end, it was the Federalists who paid the price. They lost the next national election, never again held a majority, and soon faded into history. The Sedition Act quietly expired in March 1801.

Modern Western governments may believe they have identified topics (race, gender, sexual orientation) so uniquely sensitive as to require special government restrictions. But keep in mind that the Federalists of 1798 believed just as strongly in the values they wanted to protect, and they were just as convinced that those values—and their way of life—were imperiled by the toxic words of their Republican opponents. Both sides wrote and said outrageous things. Yet for the brief reign of the Sedition Act, Republicans went to jail and Federalists remained free—not because one side had a lock on wisdom, but because one side enjoyed political cover while the other did not.

Allowing offensive speech doesn't connote approval. Nor do we defend wrongheaded thinking under the bromide that everyone's opinions matter, or that the mere act of forming and expressing ideas entitles those ideas to respect. Ignorance and hatefulness can and should be confronted and shot down, but with reason and with better words. Rigorous confrontation of bad ideas is a process that author Jonathan Rauch calls "liberal science."

By **CHARLES SLACK**
The Philadelphia Inquirer

Charles Slack is the author of *Liberty's First Crisis: Adams, Jefferson, and the Misfits Who Saved Free Speech*. He wrote this for The Philadelphia Inquirer.



In his classic book, *Kindly Inquisitors*, Rauch, who is Jewish and gay, defended the rights of anti-Semites and homophobes to spout their hurtful nonsense. "The only way to kill a bad idea is by exposing it and supplanting it with better ones," Rauch wrote. Tolerance, he noted, is not a gift; it is an investment in one's own ongoing freedom of expression. "Today, true, the regulators may take gay people's side," he noted. "But the wheel will turn, and the majority will reassert itself, and, when the inquisitorial machinery is turned against them, homosexuals will rue the day they helped set it up."

Each generation faces wars, recessions, and political, religious, or racial strife so seemingly perilous that even freedom-loving Americans may feel called upon to forcibly shut one another up. As Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall observed, "History teaches that grave threats to liberty often come in times of urgency, when constitutional rights seem too extravagant to endure." It is human nature to believe ourselves ever to be standing on the precipice of disaster, holding tight to our values and our way of life. If previous generations seem by comparison to have lived in peace or harmony, that's only because their crises by now rest calmly in the history books, whereas our own seem so immediate and uncertain.

A passion for liberty and individual rights is not about hating the government, nor denying its essential place in our lives. But it is about recognizing the dangers (and resisting the temptation) of summoning the authorities when someone says something we despise. Most of the concerns that inflame us today will soon reside as historical footnotes alongside the issues that so inflamed Federalists and Republicans. What remains as the measure of a generation is not the policies it enacted to surmount temporary difficulties, nor the restrictions it imposed on its most repugnant voices. The true measure of greatness of any generation is the degree of wisdom it showed in looking beyond the moment and handing down liberty, intact and unfettered, to the next.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

The Blue Flame

Some stories have to be told. The Blue Flame's story is one of them. Although this takes us back a few decades, some recent news is bringing the old days into new headlines.

The Blue Flame, as any of my pals and I would have told you back in grade school, was a rocket-powered car that set the land speed record of 630 mph at the Bonneville Salt Flats in Utah on Oct. 23, 1970.

You might ask me why you should care. But you might as well ask me why any schoolboy at the time would not care, because we did care, and even all these decades later the mere mention of the Blue Flame sets the pulse racing.

None of my pals and I ever saw the Blue Flame with our own eyes. But the photos were good enough. We all drove the Blue Flame a thousand times a week, in our imaginations that is, which gave us flight from the stale confines of our classroom desks.

We had, of course, a lot of cool things to contemplate at the time. There were Learjets and Boeing 727s and Huey helicopters and Ford Mustangs and Chevy Novas and other highlights of the age. But even kids understood that these machines were of commercial practicality, and hence there would be a lot of them. They were impressive, yes, but not rare.

But a rocket-powered car by contrast struck us as something that was an exercise in pure performance. There was only one Blue Flame. This was no assembly-line item.

As for land speed records, these are items of painstakingly specific definitions. I don't understand them but I'll regurgitate them: The Blue Flame's records were tallied in two flavors, one at 630 mph (based on a "flying kilometer" index), the other at 622 mph (based on a "flying mile" index). The Blue Flame is said to have hit around 650 mph at one point, but the record

book scores aren't based on peak speeds, as we can surmise from the use of, and the different results from, kilometer- and mile-based spans.

The Blue Flame was unbeatable for a lot of years but, in 1983, a jet-powered British car dubbed "Thrust2" recorded a new record 634 mph in the Nevada desert.

The British have held the land speed record ever since.

Another one of their accomplishments was going supersonic in a run of 763 mph in 1997. This car, the ThrustSSC, was powered not by one engine, but by two. It's pretty much a jet-engine sandwich, with a needle-shaped body wedged between two afterburning turbofans.

Well, this introduces a fact in high-speed transportation, and, though I don't know the specifics of the ThrustSSC's development, I can offer a broad truth here: When in doubt, add more thrust.

Actually, when in doubt, add more money; that's where thrust comes from. And when not in doubt, well, add money anyway. If you ever get involved with jets at any level, you can count on this wisdom.

The ThrustSSC crew is now aiming for another record: They're working on another car called Bloodhound SSC, to gun for the 1,000 mph mark. They think it will go from zero to 1,000 mph in 55 seconds. There's no jet sandwich this time around but, instead, one jet engine and one rocket engine are mounted one over the other along the vehicle's centerline.

The race track for this event is in South Africa. Preparations for the action have been in the news lately. Test runs and a goal of hitting 800 mph are slated for later this year. It's too early to tell when the 1,000 mph mark will be on the plate. Soon enough, I guess, but first things first.

geniuses upstairs that it's otherwise?

Indeed, I've stood in and out of casinos between Reno, Vegas, and Atlantic City. I was showered heavily by neon lights that flash like rainbows through the night. I've seen big time entertainment even in non-casino top gun nightclubs in Tokyo and elsewhere. It's good quick trips if you're rich. I'm not and never will be. Otherwise, I'm good with beer, sashimi, and friends along the shores of home.

Proponents of big time casino gaming would spout jobs for hundreds. It's a feel-good temporary refuge. How about buckling down to whether it brings major strides in the livelihood of casino employees and other workers? In brief, would casino employees be salaried the usual minimum or real wages? The latter includes inflation to help employees. This equation must be addressed and resolved in any discussion.

In discussing job opportunities, what are the requirements of higher paying jobs beyond working as dealers, bellboys, chambermaids, gardeners, and janitors? What percentage of new trainees is likely to move into the higher echelon? What courses could they take at NMC to give them upward mobility and would their employer generously pay for tuition costs? Otherwise, it's mostly menial jobs!

Culture of facelessness

When policymakers no longer listen to the people they represent, you and I, so they understand our ideas and concerns, they voluntarily enter the next stage: the culture of facelessness.

Perhaps some meant well but then how could they simply employ arrogance when, e.g., twice we said no to casino? Maybe they think they are smarter than any of us or better than any of us and that's

address and suppress our guns rights will be declared null and void. If not, the 19th Legislature has to repeal PL-6-38 and all other laws that directly infringe on our right to bear arms. These laws violate the 2nd Amendment to the U.S. Constitution and make a mockery of justice and our Covenant with the United States.

The U.S. Supreme Court, the judicial arm of the federal government, has ruled in favor of handgun ownership by citizens and handguns being the weapon of choice for self-defense. Since these decisions carry the rule of a federal law that applies to the CNMI, these decisions upon issuance should have carried justice and nullified our well-intentioned but inferior public laws.

The bottom line is that all U.S. citizens and nationals domiciled in the CNMI have the right to own handguns and everything else listed by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives as legal for private ownership. Our Covenant gave us a right that since 1999 our government has infringed and abused. It is high time we stop wearing our ignorance like shields and follow the law—federal law.

Noel S. Reyes

Dandan, Saipan

By ED STEPHENS

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Visit Ed Stephens Jr. at EdStephensJr.com.

His column runs every Friday.



But the near future sure isn't going to erase the distant past. Nothing, no matter how fast, will ever replace the Blue Flame. Many of us will remember it for a lifetime.

As a follow-through to those days, I'll mention a few things:

The Blue Flame is now a museum display in Germany.

The Blue Flame's tires were made by Goodyear. This nudged many of us toward buying Goodyear tires once we hit driving age. There is no way to measure how big the Blue Flame's influence is, or was, on this matter, but it has certainly been a factor.

The driver of the Blue Flame, Gary Gabelich, who struck us as a very dashing figure, passed away in 1984 at the age of 43 from a motorcycle accident. He had a really interesting career and, among his other exploits, he served as a test subject for the Apollo space program. As the story goes, he was originally the third choice for the Blue Flame; the first choice wanted too much money, the second choice got killed in a racing crash before he could start his Blue Flame assignment, and then Gabelich took the opportunity to be driver when it presented itself.

And that, folks, is the story of the Blue Flame.

Evidence-based expansion

Plans are now rolling to build BSI's integrated casino project that begins in public land in Garapan. Such project should be restricted to Garapan. Any expansion must be "evidence-based" with active participation of the indigenous people on any additional use of their public land.

In other words, let's see what the results are after the initial BSI project is in operation for at least five years. If its economic contribution is positive then there could be room to deliberatively discuss expansion. That someone spouts through the media of the need to expand tourism isn't necessarily the right thing to do. Nah! Inclusion of the indigenous voice is a must!

Must the indigenous people whimsically or forcibly accept at face value someone else's view of development? Must not the indigenous people be active participants, using our prism as the gauge to roll or hold? Don't you think we are equally mindful of the future of posterity in everything that happens here? Such egregious vacuum of alienation must cease and desist!

Must investors persist treating indigenous sentiment as cogs in the greater scheme of things? How do you think we feel as permanent hosts of these isles being shoved aside, as though our sentiments are something that could be scrapped instantly?

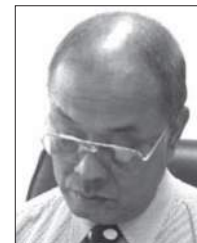
If things work right, casino should help the tourism industry. The view that tourism would become the single economic engine here is farcically shortsighted. We've seen how the Asian financial crisis nailed the NMI to its cross.

It's a fickle industry, as crispy as dry marshland reed. It breaks easily. When it cracks into instant derailment do we have anchor investments to back up the losses? I mean other than grand promotions of menial jobs, could we hear articulation from the voice of

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.

Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.



why they decided for us an issue of magnitude riddled with short-sightedness from the outset. They had to admit in court that they violated the Open Government Act! They lied!

Recently, news reports (*Saipan Tribune*, page 13 of Feb. 18th) detailed missed revenue projections and expectations in Connecticut and New Jersey that led to the closure of at least four casinos in the latter. The promotion of bigger casinos was seen as an attraction but failed by huge margins.

Several more casinos would open in Macau while two just opened in Manila. Coupled with the purging of corruption by the president of the Republic of China barring the transfer of huge sums of money from the mainland, this completely slammed the brakes on the very window where the triad makes its millions. The NMI would have benefited from it. But it's gone!

One of the issues that are seriously considered is basic infrastructure—in this case an affluent community—whose money could support the industry when outsiders fail to come to the island. With the rising tide of bankruptcy would you honestly call the CNMI an affluent community? Eh, some intellectual integrity is in high demand on this score! Imposing the culture of facelessness isn't the answer either!

NETANYAHU

From Page 10

the Arabs of Israel as a potential fifth column, and to restrict or revoke their rights.

That's a big mistake. Even in a "Jewish state," it is unconscionable to deny members of a minority group the right to participate in crucial national debates. Of course there are many Arabs in Israel who identify with the Palestinian cause or who are hostile to the very idea of Israel. But they are citizens nevertheless, and should not be chastised for exercising their rights.

An alternative approach would be to treat all citizens alike, regardless of their religion, while also working honestly and vigorously to create a sovereign Palestinian state that would reduce tension between these two historically hostile groups.






LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Our right to bear arms

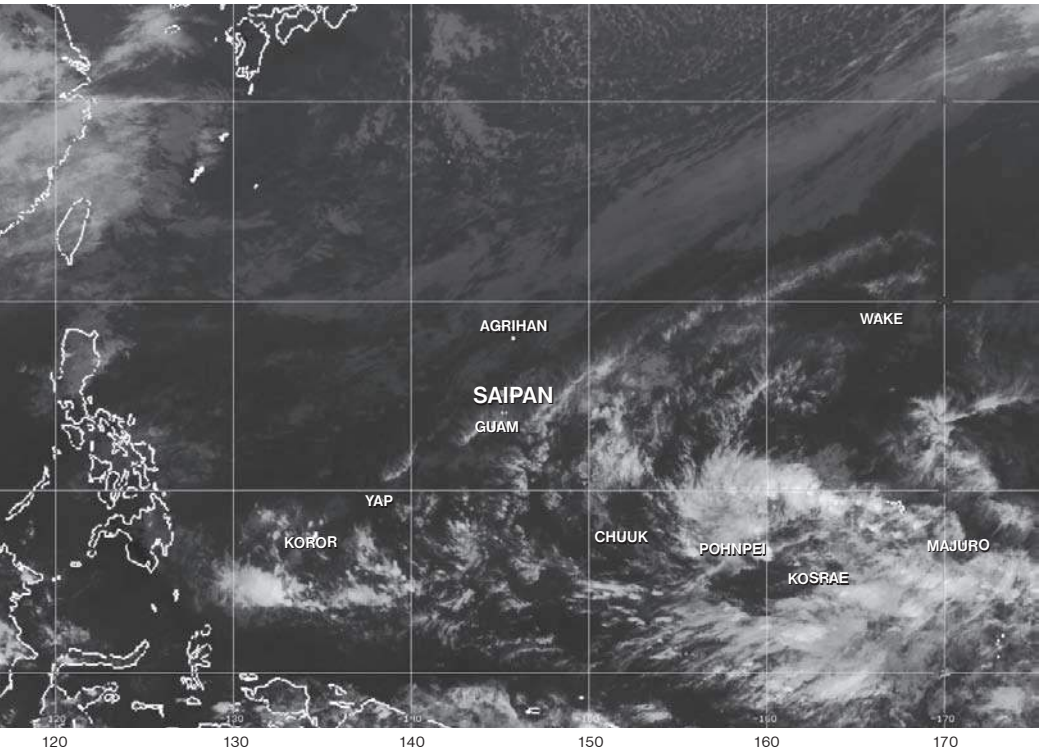
The recent statement by assistant attorney general James Zarones that the citizens of the CNMI have never "considered handguns to be the quintessential self-defense weapon" is one of the lamest excuses uttered in defense of the CNMI laws that ban handguns as well as most rifles and shotguns. The fact is that because of Public Law 6-38, only .22 caliber rifles and .410-gauge shotgun are legal for ownership, the one and only reason there are no handguns registered by private citizens. Let us all cut the crap and base all arguments on facts, not suppositions and pure fiction.

Many argue their points on safety, public welfare, etc. They are but semantics, valid in argument but weightless and moot versus the superiority of the U.S. Constitution and given the number of home invasions, murders, and people missing in the CNMI, these arguments are euphoric at best. However, there is hope that as a result of the pending lawsuits, PL 6-38 and all subsequent laws enacted to

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian				
TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
				
Mostly cloudy and breezy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 15 to 25 mph.	Mostly cloudy and breezy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 15 to 25 mph.	Mostly cloudy and breezy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.	Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms.	Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms.
▲85° ▼74°	▲86° ▼74°	▲86° ▼74°	▲85° ▼74°	▲85° ▼74°

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, THURSDAY, MARCH 26, 2015

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A shear line runs southwestward from 25N164E to beyond 130E at 12N. Cloudiness and patchy showers are along and up to 300 miles northwest of this shear line. Another shear line stretches southwestward from 19N160E to near Yap and kKoror at 8N136E. Cloudiness and patchy showers are along and up to 150 miles northwest of this line. A surface trough north of Chuuk is triggering scattered showers and a few thunderstorms within 75 miles of 11N152E. A near-equatorial trough meanders east-northeastward from 2N130E to a circulation between Pohnpei and Kosrae at 6N161E then turns southeastward to end near EQ180E. Patchy areas of scattered showers and a few thunderstorms just south of Koror are within 150 miles of a line from 5N130E to 5N145E. Converging surface winds associated with the circulation are producing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms in several areas to the south of a line from 10N157E to 10N166E to 4N180E. These areas include Pohnpei and Kosrae states and the southern Marshall Islands.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

Micronesia		
Guam And Rota	Thunderstorms	▲84 ▼76
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲88 ▼80
Yap	Thunderstorms	▲85 ▼79
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲86 ▼80
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲87 ▼78
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲87 ▼77
Majuro	Heavy Rain	▲87 ▼83

Around the Globe		
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	▲78 ▼64
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	▲74 ▼51
Hong Kong	Showers	▲74 ▼66
Honolulu	Windy	▲80 ▼70
London	Showers	▲54 ▼38
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲91 ▼64
Manila	Partly Cloudy	▲89 ▼73
Melbourne	Showers	▲66 ▼53
Miami	Partly Cloudy	▲85 ▼65
New York	Rain	▲64 ▼46
Osaka	Sunny	▲62 ▼43
Paris	Showers	▲51 ▼37
Pusan	Mostly Sunny	▲63 ▼42
Rome	Showers	▲68 ▼53
Salem	Partly Cloudy	▲73 ▼47
San Francisco	Sunny	▲75 ▼54
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	▲52 ▼33
Tokyo	Sunny	▲64 ▼44
Washington, DC	Showers	▲75 ▼47



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

Tides			
Saipan Harbor			
2:58 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.6 Feet
8:21 AM	Today	Low Tide:	1.1 Feet
1:15 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.6 Feet
8:55 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.1 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset		
Today	6:17 AM	6:29 PM
Saturday	6:16 AM	6:29 PM
Sunday	6:16 AM	6:29 PM
Monday	6:15 AM	6:29 PM
Tuesday	6:14 AM	6:30 PM

Moonrise/Moonset		
Today	11:55 AM	12:10A M
Saturday	12:46 PM	1:00 AM
Sunday	1:36 PM	1:47 AM
Monday	2:25 PM	2:32 AM
Tuesday	3:13 PM	3:14 AM

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 5, 2015

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA5070	4:15am	5:05am	Daily	UA5069	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA5068	8:00am	8:50am	3	UA5071	6:40am	7:30am	3
UA5068	8:40am	9:30am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7	UA5071	7:15am	8:05am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7
UA5039	2:20pm	4:00pm	6, 7 via Rota	UA5039	1:00pm	1:50pm	6, 7
UA5078	3:10pm	4:00pm	1, 5	UA5038	1:10pm	2:40pm	2, 4 via Rota
UA5038	3:10pm	4:00pm	2, 4	UA5077	1:50pm	2:40pm	1, 5
UA5040	6:55pm	7:45pm	1, 5	UA5041	5:35pm	6:25pm	1, 5
UA5078	8:35pm	9:25pm	2, 3, 4, 6, 7	UA5077	7:15pm	8:05pm	2, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA5044	10:40pm	11:30pm	1, 5	UA5043	9:20pm	10:10pm	1, 5
SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)				GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)			
UA5039	2:20pm	2:55pm	6, 7	UA5038	1:00pm	1:35pm	2, 4
ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)				ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN			
UA5039	3:25pm	4:00pm	6, 7	UA5038	2:05pm	2:40pm	2, 4
SAIPAN-PALAU (ROR)				PALAU (ROR)-SAIPAN			
DL287	6:05am	1:10am+1	2, 6 via NRT	DL298	4:35am	3:00pm	3, 7 via NRT
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)				NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
DL287	6:05am	8:40am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6	DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL297	4:20pm	7:05pm	Daily	DL288	8:55pm	1:25am+1	1, 3, 4, 5, 7
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)				SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
OZ606	2:10am	6:00am	1	OZ603	9:00am	2:20pm	Daily
OZ606	2:40am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	7C 3402	10:10am	3:30pm	Daily
OZ6063	3:20am	7:10am	3, 4, 6, 7	OZ605	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
OZ604	3:20pm	7:10pm	Daily	OZ605	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
7C 3401	4:30pm	8:20pm	Daily	OZ6053	8:50pm	2:10am+1	2, 3, 5, 6
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)				BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 7	OZ607	9:00pm	1:50am+1	3, 6
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)				SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
3U8648	6:00am	8:35am	1, 4, 5, 7	3U8647	10:30pm	4:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)				BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN			
MU764	1:30am	5:30am	1, 4, 5, 7	MU763	4:30pm	12:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)				GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN			
3U8646	4:30am	7:30am	2, 6	3U8645	7:55pm	3:10am+1	1, 5
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
OZ606/701	2:10am	11:15am	1 via ICN	OZ704/603	12:10am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
OZ606/701	2:40am	11:15am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	PR110/UA5041	7:35am	6:25pm	1,5 via GUM
UA5069/PR111	2:45am	4:50pm	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM	PR110/UA5077	7:35am	8:05pm	3, 6, 7 via GUM
UA5070/191	4:15am	7:20am	2, 7 via GUM	PR110/UA5043	7:35am	10:10pm	1, 5 via GUM
UA5070/191	4:15am	9:00am	3, 6 via GUM	DL172/288	9:40am	1:25am+1	1, 3, 4, 5, 7 via NRT
UA5070/183	4:15am	8:45pm	2, 5 via GUM	UA190/5077	9:55am	8:05pm	2, 7 via GUM
UA5070/183	4:15am	9:10pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM	UA190/5077	10:00am	8:05pm	3, 6 via GUM
DL287/275	6:05am	9:35pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 6 via NRT	OZ702/605	12:30pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
UA5071/PR111	6:40am	4:50pm	3 via GUM	OZ702/605	12:30pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA5071/PR111	7:15am	4:50pm	1, 5, 6, 7 via GUM	UA184/5071	10:55pm	7:30am+1	3 via GUM
UA5068/183	8:00am	9:50pm	3 via GUM	UA184/5071	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA5068/183	8:40am	9:30pm	2, 5 via GUM	UA184/5039	10:55pm	1:50pm+1	6, 7 via GUM
UA5068/183	8:40am	9:50pm	1, 4, 6, 7 via GUM	UA184/5038	10:55pm	2:40pm+1	4 via GUM-Rota
UA5039/183	2:20pm	9:50pm	6, 7 via Rota-GUM	UA184/5077	10:55pm	2:40pm+1	1 via GUM
UA5038/183	3:10pm	9:30pm	2 via GUM	UA184/5041	10:55pm	6:25pm+1	1 via GUM
UA5078/183	3:10pm	9:30pm	5 via GUM	UA184/5077	10:55pm	8:05pm+1	3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA5078/183	3:10pm	9:50pm	1 via GUM	UA184/5043	10:55pm	10:10pm+1	1 via GUM
UA5038/183	3:10pm	9:50pm	4 via GUM	UA184/5071	10:59pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM
OZ604/703	3:20pm	11:00pm	Daily via ICN	UA184/5038	10:59pm	2:40pm+1	2 via GUM-Rota
				UA184/5077	10:59pm	2:40pm+1	5 via GUM
				UA184/5041	10:59pm	6:25pm+1	5 via GUM
				UA184/5077	10:59pm	8:05pm+1	2 via GUM
				UA184/5043	10:59pm	10:10pm+1	5 via GUM
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)				HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN			
OZ606/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN	OZ746/603	12:30am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
OZ606/723	2:10am	12:50pm	1 via ICN	OZ750/603	1:10am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
OZ606/721	2:40am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	OZ722/605	1:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ606/723	2:40am	12:50pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	OZ724/605	2:20pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
UA5070/179	4:15am	10:35pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM	OZ722/605	1:15pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA5068/179	8:00am	10:35pm	3 via GUM	OZ724/605	2:20pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA5068/179	8:40am	10:35pm	1, 5, 6 via GUM	UA180/5071	10:55pm	7:30am+1	3 via GUM
UA5039/179	2:20pm	10:35pm	6 via Rota-GUM	UA180/5071	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 5, 6 via GUM
UA5078/179	3:10pm	10:35pm	1, 5 via GUM	UA180/5039	10:55pm	1:50pm+1	6 via GUM
OZ604/749	3:20pm	10:30pm	Daily via ICN	UA180/5077	10:55pm	2:40pm+1	1, 5 via GUM-Rota
				UA180/5041	10:55pm	6:25pm+1	1, 5 via GUM
				UA180/5077	10:55pm	8:05pm+1	3, 6 via GUM
				UA180/5043	10:55pm	10:10pm+1	1, 5 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; 7C: Jeju AirETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

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TINIAN TO SAIPAN			SAIPAN TO TINIAN			SAIPAN TO ROTA		
DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:00AM	7:15AM	Mon, Tue,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily	7:45AM	8:15AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
			8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily			
7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily	4:00PM	4:30PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily			
9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily			
10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily	12:00NN	12:15NN	Daily			
11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily			
12:30NN	12:45NN	Daily	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily			
1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily			
2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily			
3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily			
4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily			
5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily						
6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily						

ROTA TO SAIPAN		
DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
8:30AM	9:00AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:45PM	5:15PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

Madonna and a cruel fact of life

By **CORY FRANKLIN**
CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Madonna has been dissed, and she is not happy. The 56-year-old proclaimed Queen of Pop, with more record sales than any woman in history, received a distinctly unroyal reception by the British radio station BBC Radio 1, which recently banished her latest single, "Living For Love," from its playlist.

Every generation has its own music and its own musical royalty, and the British, above all, are especially protective of the royal line of succession. Apparently Madonna's devoted subjects are too old for BBC 1, which deemed Her Royal Highness "irrelevant" to its audience. Madonna calls the decision "discriminatory and unfair," a clear case of ageism.

The very proper BBC 1 head programmer admitted: "We've got to concentrate on people aged 15-30. We have to bring our average age down. That's something we're very conscious of. The vast majority of

people who like Madonna, who like her music now, are over 30 and frankly, we've moved on from Madonna. Whilst around 40 percent of the country's 15- to 29-year-olds tune into Radio 1 each week, an artist's age is never a factor."

Madonna was not amused. "I was like, 'Wait a second. Shouldn't it have to do with whether you wrote a good, catchy pop song?'" she told a British newspaper "My manager said to me, 'If you're not in your 20s, it's hard. You might get your record played in your 30s. There's a handful of people who do—Pharrell (who is 41) got lucky. But if you're in your 50s, you can forget it.'"

Madonna must wonder how the British can treat a queen this way.

The moving hand, once having writ, moves on. That's how it works in the kingdom of popular music. One day, you're singing "Like A Virgin" in your underwear, appearing on MTV on a giant wedding cake and marrying Sean Penn. The next day: Poof! Your music might as well be seventh-

century Gregorian chants.

Youth must be served, and youth can always download Madonna on their MP3 players and listen to "Papa Don't Preach" all day long. The sad truth is that listeners with iPods can always get more Madonna, but without promotional stations like BBC 1, Madonna can't always get more new listeners. And when the queen loses favor, the day comes when her head goes on the chopping block like one of Henry VIII's wives.

It wasn't so long ago that it was good to be the queen. Her royal highness was dating Warren Beatty (Penn proved to be an unworthy suitor), appearing in edgy books and movies, and touring the world with a huge retinue. Madonna was naked when naked was the coin of the realm. She expelled a fair share of musical knights from the kingdom of radio airplay.

Now if she wants to avoid becoming a rock-and-roll dowager, she might have to look at what those banished subjects are doing. She could try the Paul McCartney strat-



egy and, like Sir Paul, duet somewhat uncomfortably with hot young singers.

Maybe the Sir Mick Jagger route and try selling out large venues. However, Madonna has already fallen off the stage at the Super Bowl and in London. There are only so many tumbles a dowager queen and her brittle bones can take.

Finally, there is the Bob Dylan approach (OK, he hasn't been knighted) and she could take a stab at singing the old standards. Perhaps "Madonna Sings the Ella Fitzgerald Songbook" or "Madonna Sings Billie Holiday." On second thought, that might not be such a good idea.

Even the Material Girl must eventually go the way of all earth. Far better singers have

confronted the inevitability of being banished from playlists; she is not the first, and certainly won't be the last, to see her music fade slowly into the mists of time. That's truth or dare for you.

If her subjects are brave enough to tell Madonna the truth, they should inform her she is not a victim of ageism. She is a victim of life. Besides, true royalty never lets her subjects hear her whine.

Cory Franklin is the author of Chicago Flashbulbs: A Quarter Century of News, Politics, Sports, and Show Business (1987-2012). He wrote this for the Chicago Tribune.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Clarification on Ocean Vista's QC application

Response to Bo Palacios, Business Development Manager, J. C. Tenorio Enterprises: In response to your testimony, as the consultant for the project, I provide the following for your consideration, to correct some misinformation contained in your written testimony, and respond to public comments posted to respective media websites in regards to your testimony:

1) The QC program is not a tax loophole. Tax loopholes are akin to looking for gaps in the tax law for which due to some legislative oversight allows a taxpayer an unintended tax advantage.

The QC Program was established by CNMI Public Law 12-32, the Investment Incentive Act of 2000, on Dec. 1, 2000. It is cited in the CDA website. It is touted at business seminars that promote doing business in the CNMI. All businesses can avail of the program as long as they meet the defined investment criteria.

Ocean Vista Resort's application was completed and filed pursuant to approved regulations with the Commonwealth Development Authority.

Ocean Vista Resort will not be the only resort hotel in the CNMI. Among other reasons for filing was to be competitive with other hotel operations (present and future) who may currently avail of below fair market value leases of government properties for which you describe as an incentive, that have currently approved QC incentives, or that may apply in the future for QC incentives and be approved.

2) Ocean Vista Resort is *not* leasing government land. It has secured a 55-year leasehold of 4.5 hectares of private property for the project.

3) Hotel investments require a lot of capital. This project is estimated at \$46 million. It also comes with risks: a) Volatile airline services b) High cost of utilities c) Natural disasters in our region d) Volatile economies of Asia e) High maintenance costs f) Labor market challenges (for which you mentioned). Ocean Vista Resort shareholders will have to manage or neutralize the above risks, hopefully recover their investment and realize some reasonable return.

The QC program provides the incentives to help manage or neutralize the stated risks, recover investment, and realize a reasonable return. We must all bear in mind that recovering your investment and realizing a reasonable return will not happen overnight. It will take time and lots of effort on the part of the investors.

4) Ocean Vista Resort projects to contribute tax revenues, directly, in the form of hotel occupancy and employment taxes projected at \$40 million over the 25-year period. The \$40 million is \$18 million dollars more than it projects to receive in incentives over the 25-year period. Furthermore, as a hotel operation, it will purchase from local vendors goods and services. In addition, hotel guests of Ocean Vista Resort will also patronize local restaurants, events, shops, and recreational activities' vendors. This economic activ-

ity beyond the hotel property is known as the economic multiplier effect of a hotel operation. A hotel operation does create more jobs and more revenues not only for itself but also for our local vendors and in turn also generate additional government revenues. I am sure that the restaurants and shops that surround Fiesta and Hyatt are very appreciative of the presence of those operations.

5) Ocean Vista Resort will have to pay for improved traffic development at its entrance plus upgrade of water supply and sewer lines to service the project.

6) Ocean Vista Resort is not boasting about any of its claims or projections and nor does it make any guarantees. It presents information for CDA's review and consideration pursuant to the regulations addressing the application process.

7) The application process does not guarantee that the requested incentives will be granted. Ocean Vista Resort respects the process for which its application is reviewed and considered. It will provide CDA with any additional information as requested. It understands that CDA may recommend to the governor to approve the request, reduce the requested incentives, or not at all for which Ocean Vista Resort will have the option to consider and make an informed decision in how it will best move forward with the project.

Tony Muña
Consultant, Ocean Vista Resort

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1. Merchant terminal deposits must be to a First Hawaiian Bank checking account (same day deposit does not apply to American Express transactions)

2. Other fees may apply, including, but not limited to, fees related to card associations, vendor, PCI and Data Breach Assistance Program.

3. Excluding wireless terminal gateway fee.

4. Android is a trademark of Google Inc.

5. Apple is a registered trademark of Apple Inc.

AdvancED team concludes accreditation visit at MCS

This week, an external evaluation team for AdvancED completed its visit at Mount Carmel School as part of the school's accreditation process with the North Central Association Commission on Accreditation and School Improvement. The evaluation team commended the school's leadership for its drive and spirit and validated the school's commitment to developing a strategic master plan that will guide the school's growth in the next three to five years. Mount Carmel School is the first



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
The AdvancED team met with members of the Mount Carmel School's board of directors. From left to right, MCS board member Joe Pangelinan; AdvancED team members Paulette Sablan, Leila Staffler, and Leonard Paul; and MCS board chair Joe Tajeron.

the team held group meetings with faculty, staff, administrators, parent representatives, student representatives, the school's leadership, and the school board. The team also conducted extensive classroom observations using AdvancED's ELEOT tool, which focuses on student engagement and learning.

Frances Taimanao, the 2015 MCS Teacher of the Year, was very pleased with the visit. "Overall, I am confident about the visit and our progress," said Taimanao. "I feel that the process or visit so far is very positive." As a former school administrator and master teacher with decades of experience under her belt, Taimanao has participated in numerous accreditation visits.

School president Gal-

What Is ASQ-3™?



ASQ-3 is a set of questionnaires about children's development. It has been used for more than 20 years to make sure children are developing well. It is called a screener because it looks at how children are doing in important areas, such as:

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HOW IS YOUR BABY GROWING?



If you have any concerns about your child's development, contact the Children's Developmental Assistance Center (CDAC) at 664-4841



This project is supported by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) under grant number H25MC06112, Community-Based Integrated Service Systems - Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems grant.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
AdvancED team member Leila Staffler meets with a group of students during lunch to learn more about Mount Carmel School.

private school in the region to earn accreditation from the renowned accrediting agency.

Preparations for the team's visit began earlier this school year as faculty, staff, and administrators drafted the school's accreditation report. The effort was led by accreditation co-chairs Bobby Baldazo, vice principal for curriculum and instruction, and Tobed Smith, school counselor. The final report was submitted to the team in February, which

laid out the school's efforts to meet AdvancED accreditation standards.

Led by Leonard D. Paul, vice president for AdvancED's Northwest Region, the team included three administrative leaders from the CNMI Public School System: Naomi Nishimura, Paulette Sablan, and Leila Staffler. With their visit, the team focused on validating the report's findings as well as learning more about the school. As part of the visit,

vin Deleon Guerrero echoed Taimanao's sentiments. "It is so reassuring for an external team to come in and recognize all the great things happening at our school," he said. "And I especially appreciate the efforts of the team and AdvancED to shift the focus from a teacher-centric pedagogy to a more learner-centric pedagogy."

According to its organizational overview, "AdvancED is the largest community of education professionals in the world." AdvancED works with "32,000 schools and school systems—employing more than four million educators and enrolling more than 20 million students—across the United States and 70 other nations." AdvancED was created through a 2006 merger of the PreK-12 divisions of the North Central Association and the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools—and expanded through the addition of the Northwest Accreditation Commission in 2011. (MCS)

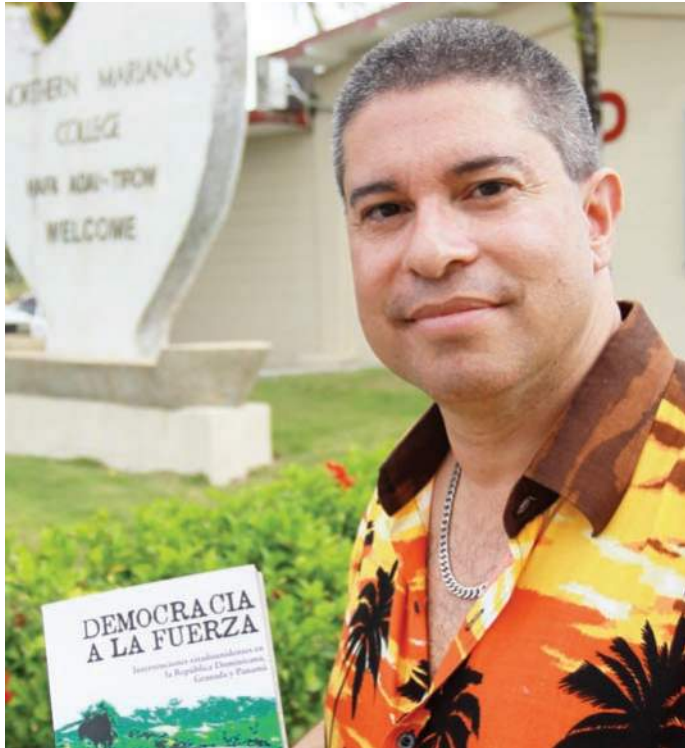
CONGRATULATIONS!

Samantha Jo Liske-Clark, a sixth grade student at Whispering Palms School, finished in fourth place at last week's Scripps National Spelling Bee in Guam. She competed against mainly seventh and eighth grade students. We look forward to having Samantha represent our school again next year.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

NMC instructor completes PhD



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Northern Marianas College instructor J. Marcelino González.

A faculty member of Northern Marianas College, J. Marcelino González, has recently completed the requirements for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy at Monash University—a world-ranked institution and member of Australia's prestigious Group of Eight, OR Go8.

Specializing in the theory and practice of translation, his doctoral thesis—titled *Metaphor and Agency in the English-Spanish Translation of Texts In the Social Sciences* (2014)—

examines process- and product-oriented issues in cross-cultural academic writing with an emphasis on figurative language in political discourse, as well as on the translator's role in localizing texts to meet the unique needs of new target markets. Drawing as well from his translation of Dr. Russell Crandall's *Gunboat Democracy* (2006) his practice-led research also explores the collaborative-interventive role of the translator, from project conception and copyrights to proposal

submissions and publication.

González is an English and Spanish instructor in the Languages & Humanities Department, as well as a certified translator. Having taught in several countries before joining NMC in 2009, he is also the transla-

tor of Dr. Dawn Stinchcomb's *The Development of Literary Blackness in the Dominican Republic* (2004). Currently, he is working on a grant proposal for the English translation of selected essays from *Del español al chamorro* (2009)—an edited volume exploring the centuries-long influence of the Spanish language on the evolu-

tion of modern Chamorro.

"I am pleased when one of our faculty chooses to pursue and earn a doctorate degree," said NMC president Dr. Sharon Hart. "This degree stimulates a faculty member to garner even more knowledge of a specific discipline, which is most often transferred into the classroom. So not only does a faculty mem-

ber benefit from earning this degree, so do the students."

"I congratulate Marcelo for his successful pursuit of this degree and acknowledge the honor bestowed him for such a prestigious accomplishment," said Barbara Merfalen, dean of Academic Programs and Services. "He sets the example that we all would like to emulate." (NMC)



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Red Cross aids families impacted by tropical storm

Tropical Storm Bavi passed through the Northern Mariana Islands on the evening of March 15, with sustained winds of 40 to 50 mph and gusts of up to 65 mph on Saipan and Tinian. More than 65 homes, primarily built of wood and tin were af-

ected by the high winds. “Most families had damage to their roofs which resulted in rain entering their homes,” said Claudine Atalig, Disaster Action Team member. The Red Cross quickly provided tarps and cleaning supplies to those families who were impacted. With the help of volunteers from Guam and Hawaii, local CNMI volunteers met with families to do assessments and provided financial assistance to those most affected. “While the Red Cross can’t completely rebuild homes, we hope that our assistance can provide our residents with a first step on their road to recovery,” said John Hirsh, NMI Chapter executive director. The Red Cross collaborated with Homeland Security and Emergency Management and identified five destroyed homes, 28 with major damage and 24 with minor impact. With the help of 15 Red Cross volunteers on Saipan and Tinian, the Red Cross was able to help 68 families (252 individuals) and provide more than \$25,000 in financial and in-kind assistance. Fundraising events like the recent Walkathon and Club 200 provide the much needed support to provide these services. “Emergency assistance in the aftermath of storms like Bavi wouldn’t be possible without the compassion and dedication of our volunteers and donors who are the backbone and life blood of the Red Cross,” said Paul Camacho, Emergency Services director. “The NMI Chapter has a legacy of helping those in need and providing hope to families throughout the CNMI. Their humanitarian mission is fulfilled everyday by people in the CNMI community willing to help those in need,” said Rock Ahulau, Red Cross Disaster Cycle Services. For more information about how to volunteer or make a donation to the Red Cross, call 234-3459. (ARC)



GOOD FRIDAY DONATION Mariana Resort and Spa general manager Gloria Cavanagh and resort executive Charlene Babauta donate 40 cases of water and 20 commercial/restaurant-sized cans of tuna to Municipal Council vice chair Alice Igitai and Rep. George Camacho for the Good Friday procession to Mount Tapochau. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

INVITATION TO BID

ITB NO.: ITB15-DPS-048(A)(B)(C)

SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE: APRIL 14, 2015 **TIME: 10:30 AM**

**“PURCHASE OF FIVE (5) TRAILERS FOR BOATS FOR THE
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY, BOATING SAFETY SECTION”**

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DR., SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS AND PROPOSALS; IN WHOLE OR IN PART, AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTION IN ANY BID IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE GOVERNMENT. ALL BIDS SHALL BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ JAMES C. DELEON GUERRERO
COMMISSIONER, DPS

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

**NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING
CORPORATION**

INVITATION FOR BID

(This ad is paid for by NMHC with HUD funds.)

BID SUBMISSION DATE: April 23, 2015* ** TIME: 10:00 AM

NMHC IFB 2015-004

HOME REHABILITATION LOCATED IN KOBLERVILLE LOT NUMBER 005 I 272

Interested licensed companies who are on NMHC's list of approved contractors may pick-up proposal packets on March 27, 2015, at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan, during regular working hours (7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) Monday thru Friday except CNMI holidays. **A non-refundable payment of Fifty Dollars (\$50.00) is required for each set.** Payment shall be by cash, credit card, money order or cashier's check (payable to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation).

A mandatory pre-bid conference will be held at 10:00 a.m. on April 14, 2015, at the NMHC Conference Room, Saipan.

This project is funded by a grant from the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), under its Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP).

/s/ Tom Glenn A. Quitugua
Board Chairman & Contracting Officer

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director, Division of Procurement & Supply

All Prior Service Trust Fund beneficiaries whose monthly benefit checks are allotted to Bank of Guam, Bank of Hawaii, Back of Saipan, First Hawaiian Bank, Forcht Bank-(Somerset KY), and Wells Fargo Bank-(Lynnwood, WA) are being asked to respond to a questionnaire in order to continue receiving their benefits. According to Jerold F. Facey, adviser of the Prior Service Trust Fund, in order to fulfill the Department of the Interior’s Office of Insular Affairs’ requirement to provide the continuation of funding to Prior Service and to confirm the continuing eligibility of its beneficiaries, you are required to complete a questionnaire and return it to us within 30 days upon receipt. Failure to comply with this requirement may result in the suspension of benefits. “Please stop by at our office to pick up a questionnaire or call to inform us of your Post Office mailing address so we can mail it to you. Our office’s physical location is at Quarters No. 1201, Isleta Court, Capital Hill, Saipan, MP 96950. If you have any questions, call our office at (670) 322-9753 from 8am to 12pm and from 1pm to 4:30pm Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday.” (PSTF)

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

Department of Community and Cultural Affairs

Office of the Secretary

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Tel. (670) 664-2587 Fax (670) 664-2571

BOARD MEETING NOTICE

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 11, Governor Eloy S. Inos and Lt. Governor Ralph DLG. Torres through the Division of Historic Preservation under the auspices of the Department of Community & Cultural Affairs wishes to advise the general public that CNMI Historic Preservation Review Board will hold its annual meeting on March 30-31, 2015. The meeting will be held from 8:30a.m. to 4:00p.m. at the Office on Aging Center’s Conference Room, located across the Garapan Central Park. Interested individuals are invited to attend.

Agenda

I. PRELIMINARY MATTER

a. Call to order

b. Orientation of New Board Members

c. Election of Officers

d. Adoption of Minutes of September, 2014 Board Meeting

II. OLD BUSINESS

a. HPO Regulations Update

b. HPO Historian/ Archival Researcher Update

c. HPO Staff Archeologist Update

d. Manual for State Historic Preservation Review Board Update

e. Old Business

III. NEW BUSINESS

a. National Register Nomination for Liyan Kalabera Rock Art Site

b. Best Sunshine Project (Imperial Pacific International)

c. Honest Profit Project

d. Songbird Aviation LLC Project

e. Zipline Project (Saipan Adventure Tours)

f. Saipan Review and Compliance Update

g. Rota Program Update

h. Tinian Program Update

i. HPO FY2016 Local Budget

j. FY2015 HPO Federal Grant Application

IV. OTHER NEW BUSINESS

V. ADJOURNMENT

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**PROCUREMENT AND DELIVERY OF ONE TRACTOR MOWER
TO ROTA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, ROTA**

INVITATION FOR BID

CPA-IFB -005-15

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting bids for the procurement and delivery of one Tractor Mower for the Benjamin T. Managlona, Rota International Airport.

The Bid Package is available beginning March 20, 2015 from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Office of the Executive Director, 2nd Floor, Arrival Building, Saipan International Airport.

All bids shall be sealed and marked on the cover package: “Bid: Tractor/Mower for the Rota International Airport-CPA-IFB-005-15. CONFIDENTIAL”

One (1) original and two (2) copies of the bid must be received at the Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, 2nd Floor-Arrivals Building, Saipan International Airport, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, not later than **2:00 P.M. LOCAL TIME, Friday, April 10, 2015**. Bid opening will occur after this date/time at the CPA Conference Room, 2nd Floor – Departures Building.

Questions and/or clarifications regarding this IFB, the Tractor Mower and its Specifications shall be in writing and emailed to atudela@cpa.gov.mp (Alex Tudela/Procurement Officer) no later than April 03rd, 2015. **Any question or clarification will not be entertained after April 03rd, 2015.** Answers to questions and/or clarifications will be provided to each vendor or individual receiving a bid package.

Bids received after the above closing date and time of this Invitation for Bid will not be accepted and will be returned unopened. CPA reserves the right to reject any and all bids if in its opinion to do so is in CPA's best interest.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

MaryAnn Q. Lizama
Executive Director

Julie S. Degayo
P.O. Box 501184
Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 233-0896 / (670) 783-0806

Pro Se

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT
OF THE
COMMONWEALTH
OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS**

In re the guardianship of) FCD GU
Marvil D. Aquino) CIVIL ACTION
An Incompetent) NO. 15-0138
By) **NOTICE OF**
Julie S. Degayo) **HEARING**
Petitioner)
)

Please take notice that a petition for appointment of guardianship for the above-named by Julie S. Degayo, Petitioner, was filed with the above-entitled honorable court and is open for review at the office of the clerk of the said court in Susupe, Saipan, and Commonwealth of the Mariana Islands.

A hearing of said petition for guardianship will be held at the above-entitled honorable court at Guma Histisia Building, Susupe, Saipan, NMI, before Kenneth L. Govendo on the 9th day of April, 2015 at 10:30a.m. or as soon as thereafter.

PATRICK V. DIAZ
Clerk of Court
/s/ By: Deputy Clerk of Court

Mildred C. Sablan–Camacho
and John R. Camacho
P.O. Box 504585
Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone No. 670 483 8350

Pro Se

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT
OF THE
COMMONWEALTH
OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS**

IN RE THE MATTER OF THE) FCD GU
APPOINTMENT OF AS) CIVIL ACTION
GUARDIAN OF THE ESTATE OF:) NO. 15-0150
)
Agelina S. Camacho) **NOTICE OF**
(d.o.b. 12/09/2008)) **HEARING**
Minor Child)
)
By:)
Mildred C. Sablan–Camacho)
and John R. Camacho)
Petitioner)
)

Please take notice that a petition of appointment of guardians for the estate of the above-named minor child by Mildred C. Sablan-Camacho and John R. Camacho, petitioners, was filed with the above-entitled Honorable court.

A hearing of said petition of guardianship will held at the above-entitled honorable court at Superior Court before the associate judge Kenneth L. Govendo on the 9th day of April, 2015 at 10:30am or as soon as thereafter.

PATRICK V. DIAZ
Clerk of Court
/s/ By: Deputy Clerk of Court

Tan Holdings joins millions around the world in celebrating Earth Hour
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60+ EARTH HOUR

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8:30 - 9:30PM LOCAL TIME

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**JOIN THE MOVEMENT. BE PART OF THE
MISSION TO SAVE THE PLANET.**



SWITCH OFF

Switch off all your non-essential
lights from 8:30 to 9:30 pm on
Saturday, March 28, 2015.



SPREAD THE WORD

Help raise the profile of the Earth
Hour movement by encouraging
people to support the cause.



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COMPLETION CEREMONIES

CNMI Motherread/Fatheread offers classes to Adult Basic Education students in partnership with the Northern Marianas College, the Garapan Community Development Center, and the Commonwealth Women's Association. On Friday, March 13, a total of 10 students successfully completed their Motherread/Fatheread classes facilitated by parent trainer Beth Demapan at the Garapan Community Development Center: Malcolm Amandus, Fernando Torres, Jasmine Taman, Kerolina Rios, David Rios, Martin Omar Jr., Doris Evangelista, Merosina Evangelista, Peter Lizama, and Eric Cabrera. Story Exploring instructor Nasha Reyes facilitated the Story Exploring session with students MarSario and Davelina Rios in attendance. A special thank you to Rep. Felicidad Ogu-moro and Debra Inos for their partnership and support.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

On March 23, 2015, CNMI Motherread/Fatheread hosted a completion celebration at Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School with parent trainer Amor Rabauliman and Story Exploring instructor Evangeline Espanola. Six parents completed the program: Matilda C. Camacho, Jessette Rufila, April Liske-Clark, Bianca Camille R. Espinosa, Tersha T. Tersiro, and Brenda Lynn C. Lucido. Nine children successfully completed the Story Exploring Program: Tharese Apura, Pypier Liske-Clark, Brianna Espinosa, Brandon Tesiro, Tyana Tesiro, Al-brent Lucido, Daven Lucido, and Michelle Belensosa. GTC principal Raena Bermudes, librarian Hilma Castro, and the GTC Binadu family sponsored the Motherread Fatheread in the school. Thank you Northern Marianas Humanities Council for another successful Motherread Fatheread session at GTC.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CNMI Motherread/Fatheread offers classes to Adult Basic Education students in partnership with the Northern Marianas College and the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library. This spring seven students completed their Motherread/Fatheread classes at the JKPL facilitated by parent trainer Bryan Manabat: Angel Ichihara, Jolynn Wabol, Nelissa Mendiola, Athens Amaro, Joseph Fukuichi, and Bernice Sanchez, and Vicenta G. Sanchez.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
CNMI Motherread Fatheread completion ceremony at Oleai Elementary School on March 17th, 2015. Oleai Elementary School administration, parent trainer Celina Foreman, Story Exploring instructor Margie Sugaste, Team CNMI Motherread/Fatheread and the Northern Marianas Humanities Council made this event possible. Congratulations, Parents: Pinelope Gail Ibanez, Merly Mercado, Soyang Kim, Lilia Labarda, Myron Laniyo, Charlyn Francisco, and Josephine Bernabe. And Hip hip hooray to their children: Ethan Juriel Ibanez, Elijah Fital, Elisha Fital, Sunny Hyun, Dustin Hyun, Kailani Laniyo, Jee Lee, Syra Argana, and Jerick Russell Bernabe! A special thank you to Oleai Elementary School Principal Jasylene Parico and the OES turtle family for their continued support and partnership!



Business

HJ Heinz buys Kraft to build \$28B food giant

NEW YORK (AP)—Some of the most familiar names in ketchup, pickles, cheese and hot dogs are set to come under the same roof after H.J. Heinz Co. announced plans Wednesday to buy Kraft and create one of the world's largest food and beverage companies.

The deal would bring together an array of longtime staples in American kitchens, including Oscar Mayer lunchmeats, Jell-O desserts, Miracle Whip spreads, Ore-Ida potatoes and Smart Ones diet foods.

The combination of the two companies—each more than a century old—was engineered by Warren Buffett's Berkshire Hathaway and Brazilian investment firm 3G Capital, which teamed up just two years ago to buy Heinz. While shoppers are not expected to see any major changes, the creation of The Kraft Heinz Co. reflects the pressures facing some of the biggest packaged food makers in the U.S.

As consumers increasingly migrate away from popular packaged foods in favor of options they consider less pro-



AP
In this March 2, 2011, file photo, Heinz ketchup bottles are displayed on the shelf of a market on in Barre, Vt.

cessed, companies including Campbell Soup, General Mills and Kellogg have been slashing costs or striking deals to update their products offerings. The Heinz-Kraft deal is in many ways just the latest example of that, although Buffett noted that

the two companies still have a strong base of customers.

"I think the tastes Kraft and Heinz appeal to are pretty enduring," he said in a telephone call to the business news channel CNBC.

Still, the early plans outlined

by Kraft and Heinz executives in a conference call Wednesday focused largely on the savings that would be achieved through the deal, rather than the potential for sales growth in North America. They said they expect to save \$1.5 billion through moves

such as combining manufacturing and distribution networks.

James Angel, an associate professor of finance at Georgetown University's McDonough School of Business, said that will probably result in job losses.

"Even though it is painful

for the people involved, those resources will be freed up for other, potentially more productive, uses," he said.

The boards of both companies unanimously approved the deal, which still needs a nod from federal regulators and shareholders of Kraft Foods Group Inc. The companies say they expect the deal to close in the second half of the year.

If the agreement goes through, Kraft is expected to undergo cost-cutting under the management of 3G Capital, which is known for running tight ships.

The president of the United Food and Commercial Workers International Union, which says it represents 3,250 Kraft and Heinz workers in North America, said the union will work with the companies to make sure they "do what is right and responsible" and don't let cost-cutting measures hurt workers.

US: Thailand must end slavery in its fishing fleets

By **MARTHA MENDOZA**
AP NATIONAL WRITER

The U.S. government and major business leaders are renewing their call on the Thai government to crack down on slavery in its fishing fleets, and to punish people who force migrant workers to catch seafood that can end up in the United States.

The State Department, the U.S. seafood and retail industries and a member of Congress reacted swiftly Wednesday to

an Associated Press investigation published this week that found slave-caught fish clouds the supply networks of major supermarkets, restaurants and even pet stores in the United States. The AP reported that hundreds of men were trapped on the remote Indonesian island of Benjina, and tracked seafood they caught to Thai exporters who then sell to the U.S.

"It has become increasingly clear that workers in the fishing industry, many of whom are mi-

grants, are exploited at multiple points along the supply chain, from harvesting to processing," U.S. State Department spokeswoman Jen Psaki said at a briefing Wednesday.

The State Department blacklisted Thailand last year for failing to meet minimum standards in fighting human trafficking. Psaki did not say whether current trade talks with Thailand include labor rights.

The National Retail Federation, the Retail Industry

Leaders Association and the National Fisheries Institute, in a letter to the ambassadors of Thailand and Indonesia, also demanded to know what will be done to free the slaves described in AP's coverage and bring their masters to justice. The industry leaders said that in the past they have asked the Thai government to address forced labor, but have lacked specific allegations.

"The AP article changes this dynamic," they wrote.

GOP-controlled House passes budget to erase deficits

WASHINGTON (AP)—Normally quarrelsome House Republicans came together Wednesday night and passed a boldly conservative budget that relies on nearly \$5 trillion in cuts to eliminate deficits over the next decade, calls for repealing the health care law and envisions transformations of the tax code and Medicare.

Final passage, 228-199, came shortly after Republicans bumped up recommended defense spending to levels proposed by President Barack Obama.

Much of the budget's savings would come from Medicaid, food stamps and welfare, programs that aid the low-income, although details were sketchy.

Rep. Tom Price, R-Ga., chairman of the House Budget Committee, called the plan a "balanced budget for a stronger America"—and one that would "get this economy rolling again."

Democrats rebutted that the GOP numbers didn't add up and called their policies wrong-headed.

"People who are running in

place today are not going to be moving forward under the Republican budget, they're going to be falling back," said Rep. Chris Van Hollen of Maryland.

The Republican-controlled Senate is likely to approve its version of a budget by week's end.

White House press secretary Josh Earnest said after the vote that Obama has been clear that he will reject a budget that locks in deep spending cuts or increases funding for national security funding without providing matching increases in

"economic security" funding.

"The administration will continue to abide by these principles moving forward," Earnest said.

The plans themselves are non-binding and do not require a presidential signature. Instead, once the House and Senate agree on a common approach, lawmakers will have to draft legislation to carry out the program that Republicans have vowed to follow in the wake of campaign victories last fall that gave them control of both houses of Congress.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

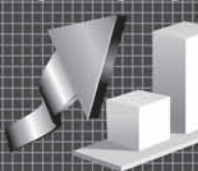
Justices revive ex-UPS worker's pregnancy bias lawsuit

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Supreme Court gave a former UPS driver another chance Wednesday to prove her claim of discrimination after the company did not offer her lighter duty when she was pregnant. The justices on Wednesday sided 6-3 with former driver Peggy Young in throwing out lower court rulings that rejected her lawsuit. The case concerned employers' responsibilities under the 37-year-old Pregnancy Discrimination Act. Atlanta-based UPS Inc. maintained that it obeyed the law because it provided light-work duty only in limited situations and did not single out pregnant women. But in ordering lower courts to look again at Young's claim, Justice Stephen Breyer said for the court that one consideration should be, "Why, when the employer accommodated so many, could it not accommodate pregnant women as well?"

UAW union head says no to new level of low wages for workers

DETROIT (AP)—The leader of the United Auto Workers union has rejected a new level of lower wages for members who make auto parts ahead of contract talks with automakers that start in the summer. There have been reports that General Motors Co. and Ford Motor Co. may propose a new pay level that is lower than the two existing groups. Speaking Wednesday at the union's national bargaining convention in Detroit, which sets the agenda for the union's bargaining efforts with the auto companies and other industries, President Dennis Williams said the UAW already has too many tiers of lower wages. Williams is under pressure from union members to end a second level of wages that starts around \$15 per hour, about half the \$28 per hour made by longtime workers. "I'm thinking they got too many damn tiers now," said Williams, who received a standing ovation.

STOCK PORTFOLIO



LEADING INDICATORS

DOW	S&P	NASDAQ
17,718.54	2,061.05	4,876.52
-292.60	-30.45	-118.21
-1.62%	-1.46%	-2.37%

EXCHANGE RATES

Australian Dollar	1.2789	Hong Kong Dollar	7.7544
British Pound	0.6717	Indian Rupee	62.75
Canadian Dollar	1.2479	Indonesian Rupiah	13026
Chinese Yuan	6.2169	Japanese Yen	118.925
Euro	0.9105	Malaysian Ringgit	3.6766
		New Zealand Dollar	1.3184
		Philippine Peso	44.881
		Singapore Dollar	1.3701
		South Korean Won	1107.655
		Swiss Franc	0.959
		Taiwan Dollar	31.304
		Thailand Baht	32.591

In U.S. dollar terms

Nation

Vietnam War veteran gets dying wish to visit Pearl Harbor

PEARL HARBOR, Hawaii (AP)—When a Vietnam veteran briefly stopped in Hawaii on his way home from war, he vowed to return one day to honor the people who perished during the attack on Pearl Harbor. With just less than two months to live, Joseph Hooker realized his longtime dream on Wednesday.

The Marine Corps veteran, who has heart disease and cancer, traveled from his home in Essex, Maryland, to Honolulu to visit the site of the Japanese attack that pushed the United States into World War II. The Dream Foundation, which grants wishes for those who have life expectancies of a year or less, arranged for the journey.

Hooker's brother and sister-in-law, who are his caregivers, took turns pushing him in a wheelchair as they went on a private tour of the battleship USS Missouri.

The Hawaii dream stems from a 20-minute stop in the islands in 1971 as Hooker headed home from Vietnam, Hooker

said from his Waikiki hotel room Tuesday. He was let off the ship just long enough to make a phone call to his family and eat some ice cream. He promised to come back someday "to honor the men and women that gave their life at Pearl Harbor."

More than four decades later, Hooker visited the spot where Japan surrendered on the deck of the USS Missouri and got a rare peek inside the captain's cabin. "I've never seen a battleship like this before," he said.

The Dream Foundation's new program, Dreams for Veterans, made Hooker's wish possible. In applying, Hooker wrote a letter saying that he longed to visit Pearl Harbor to "learn, touch and understand what happened there."

In the letter, he described voluntarily enlisting in the Marine Corps when he was 17, saying, "My heart was telling me that I was a Marine and that I was going to work hard and train to be the best."

Veterans often see Pearl Harbor as a symbol of why they

served in the military, said Jessie Higa, a volunteer historian for Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, who accompanied the

Hookers on their tour. "They served to serve those before them," she said.

The decorated veteran moved

up through the ranks to become a sergeant.

"My dream was to see Pearl Harbor," Hooker said while

resting in the Missouri's captain's cabin—a location where presidents have visited. "I can go home now and rest in peace."



Joseph Hooker, a terminally ill Vietnam veteran, sits in a wheelchair and looks at the spot on the battleship USS Missouri where Japan surrendered in 1945 during a tour with his brother Lester Hooker, center standing, and sister-in-law Rennie Hooker in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, Wednesday, March 25, 2015.

ACROSS THE NATION

Wisconsin trooper killed in shootout was new academy grad

FOND DU LAC, Wis. (AP)—A Wisconsin State Patrol trooper just three months out of the academy and working the first solo patrol of his "dream job" died in a shootout with a bank robbery suspect also believed to have killed a motorist. The robbery suspect, Steven Timothy Snyder of Michigan, also died in the confrontation Tuesday with Trooper Trevor Casper in Fond du Lac, in eastern Wisconsin. The FBI said late Wednesday it was looking at Snyder as a possible suspect in two bank robberies Tuesday in Wisconsin as well as other unsolved robberies inside and outside the state. Snyder was also considered a suspect in the death of the motorist, Thomas C. Christ, 59, of Wausaukee, who was found shot to death not far from the site of Tuesday's first bank robbery. Family and friends mourned Casper, 21, as someone who knew early he wanted to go into law enforcement, and was a high achiever in his criminal justice studies.

Police: No evidence of kidnapping of California woman

HUNTINGTON BEACH, Calif. (AP)—Police say there is no evidence that a California woman who had been reported abducted by her boyfriend and who disappeared for two days was actually kidnapped. Vallejo police said in a statement late Wednesday that it appears the disappearance of Denise Huskins was "an orchestrated

event and not a kidnapping." They say Huskins had agreed to talk to detectives after reappearing outside her father's apartment in Southern California earlier in the day, but they are now unable to contact either her or her relatives. Police say she has retained an attorney and they don't know where she is. Huskins' boyfriend had told police Monday that intruders had abducted her from their San Francisco Bay area home and held her for ransom.

Arizona Legislature OKs abortion medication requirement

PHOENIX (AP)—Arizona lawmakers approved legislation Wednesday that requires abortion providers to tell women they can reverse the effects of a drug-induced abortion and bars women from buying any health care plan through the federal marketplace that includes abortion coverage. Advocates on both sides of the issue said it's the first time such a reversal requirement has passed in the U.S., though Arkansas also is considering similar legislation. Critics say there's no science to back up the requirement. The Senate passed the proposal on an 18-11 vote. It now heads to Republican Gov. Doug Ducey, who has pledged to defend the right to life but hasn't weighed in on this specific legislation. The legislation by Phoenix Republican Sen. Nancy Barto was designed primarily to bar women from buying any health care plan through the federal marketplace that includes abortion coverage.

Young Mexican in need of transplant denied visa by the US

HERMOSILLO, Mexico (AP)—A young Mexican who urgently needs a heart and liver transplant has twice been denied a U.S. visa to go to the Mayo Clinic for treatment, he and his family said Wednesday.

Jose Chua Lopez, 20, was born with a heart defect and could die if he doesn't receive the transplants, said his mother, Myra Lopez Martinez.

"My world has fallen down," Chua said. "This needs to be fixed quickly."

Martinez said Chua has an appointment at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota, in 10 days, but was turned down for a visa Tuesday by the U.S. State

Department for the second time.

The State Department declined to comment specifically on the case, citing confidentiality rules. But spokeswoman Jen Psaki said that "our team is looking into it. So we'll see if there's more information they can provide."

Chua, whose father is an Arizona resident, had a U.S. visa until he was 15. But when it expired, his family didn't renew it because they didn't have money to pay for more trips.

U.S.-based Consejo de Latinos Unidos, which helps uninsured people secure medical care, stepped in to try to get Chua to the Mayo Clinic.

The organization's director, Kevin Forbes, said the case was mishandled at the U.S. Consulate in the northern city of Hermosillo, where Chua lives. He said that consulate officials processed an application for a tourist visa when they should have told Chua to apply for a humanitarian visa and that they then failed for weeks to respond to queries about his status.

"We have dealt with around two dozen similar international cases," Forbes said. "They have never denied us a visa. It's the first time this has happened."

Forbes said the family would file a visa application on humanitarian grounds shortly and

he hopes the problem will be resolved in two or three days.

He called the situation an "absolute abomination."

Chua's heart has only one ventricle, causing circulation problems that mean blood reaches only one of the four chambers, said Dr. Ernesto Duarte, who treats him. Chua underwent three open-heart surgeries between the ages of 5 months and 12 years, including a cardiac implant that stopped working properly in 2013.

At this point Chua's liver has also been damaged, so he needs a double-organ transplant, a procedure that is not performed in his home country.

1 person killed when tornadoes hit Oklahoma, Arkansas

TULSA, Okla. (AP)—The slow start to the nation's tornado season came to a violent end Wednesday, when tornadoes raked Tulsa during its evening rush hour, killing one person and injuring others.

Tulsa County Sheriff's Capt. Billy McKelvey said one person was killed in a mobile home park near suburban Sand Springs that was nearly destroyed Wednesday amid severe weather. It wasn't yet clear whether it was a tornado or straight-line winds that hit the park, which McK-

elvey said could accommodate 40 to 50 trailers. McKelvey couldn't say exactly how many people were hurt, but said there were multiple injuries.

"It could have been much worse," he said.

Tornadoes were seen elsewhere in Oklahoma, as well as in Arkansas, but no injuries were reported from those.

A small tornado swept across parts of Moore, an Oklahoma City suburb where 24 people died in a top-of-the-scale EF5 tornado in 2013. Other twist-

ers formed along a line from southwest of Oklahoma City to east of Tulsa, and some touched down in the Ozark Mountains of northwestern Arkansas.

Until Tuesday, when a waterspout formed over an Arkansas lake, the U.S. hadn't had a tornado in more than a month.

Television video Wednesday evening showed roof damage in a Moore neighborhood—the Moore storm two years ago scraped lots to their foundations. A glass door at the Tulsa building that houses

the National Weather Service office was smashed, and several cars in the parking lot lost their windows.

Don Ruffin said he and a neighbor were at a convenience store in far southeast Moore when he saw the tornado approaching.

"I don't know how close it was to us, but it looked like it was coming toward us, and so we didn't take any chances," Ruffin said. "We got in our vehicles, ran home and got in our shelters."

Asia

Japan uses climate cash for coal plants in India, Bangladesh

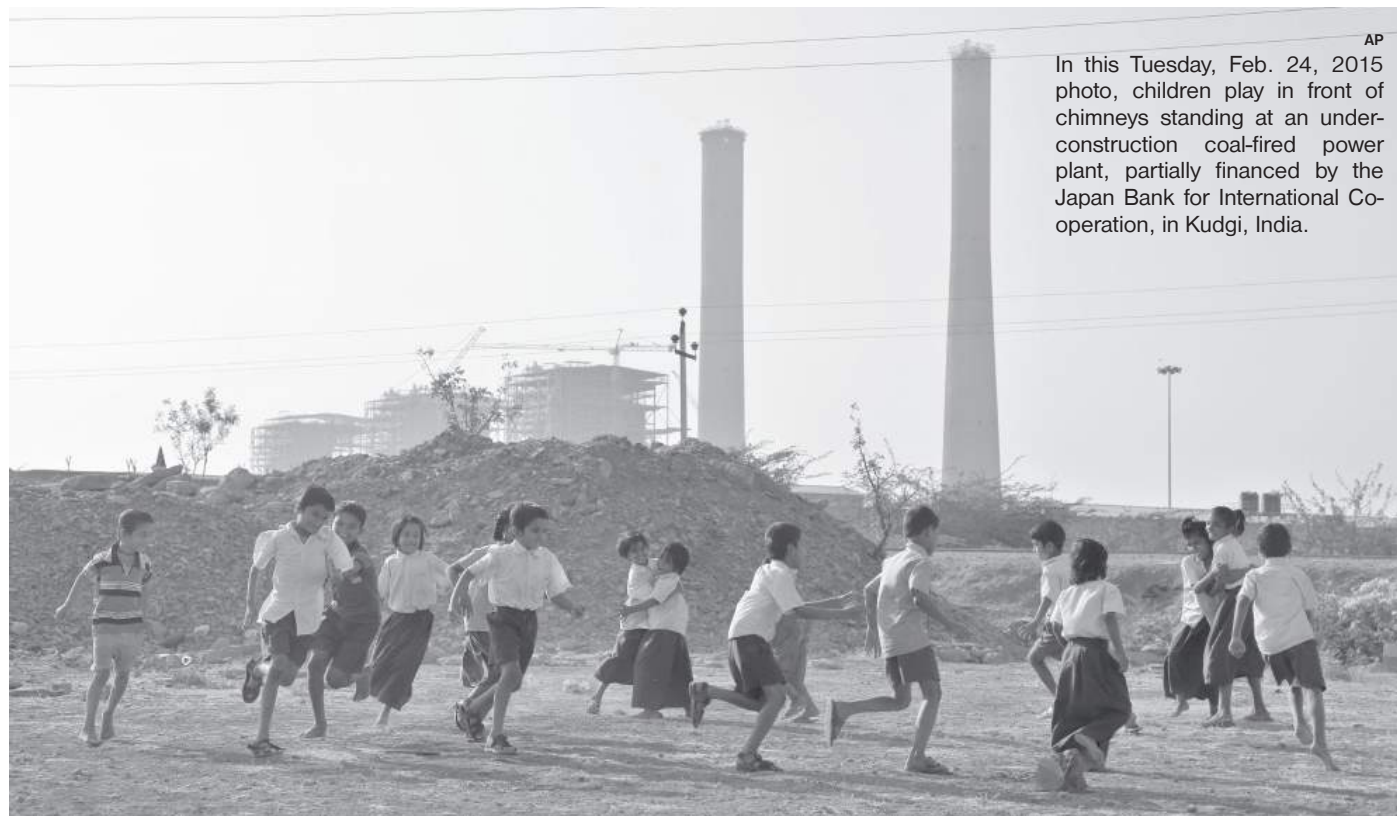
MUTTALI, India (AP)—Despite mounting protests, Japan continues to finance the building of coal-fired power plants with money earmarked for fighting climate change, with two new projects underway in India and Bangladesh, The Associated Press has found.

The AP reported in December that Japan had counted \$1 billion in loans for coal plants in Indonesia as climate finance, angering critics who say such financing should be going to clean energy like solar and wind power.

Japanese officials now say they are also counting \$630 million in loans for coal plants in Kudgi, India, and Matarbari, Bangladesh, as climate finance. The Kudgi project has been marred by violent clashes between police and local farmers who fear the plant will pollute the environment.

Tokyo argues that the projects are climate-friendly because the plants use technology that burns coal more efficiently, reducing their carbon emissions compared to older coal plants. Also, Japanese officials stress that developing countries need coal power to grow their economies and expand access to electricity.

“Japan is of the view that the promotion of high-efficiency coal-fired power plants is one of the realistic, pragmatic and ef-



AP
In this Tuesday, Feb. 24, 2015 photo, children play in front of chimneys standing at an under-construction coal-fired power plant, partially financed by the Japan Bank for International Cooperation, in Kudgi, India.

fective approaches to cope with the issue of climate change,” said Takako Ito, a spokeswoman for the Foreign Ministry.

Climate finance is money promised by rich countries in U.N. climate talks to help poor countries limit their carbon emissions. Japan announced at a U.N. climate conference in Peru in December that it has provided \$16 billion in climate finance

since 2013. Yet the U.N. has no rules defining climate finance, meaning governments decide for themselves what projects to include in their accounting.

Environmental activists are demanding that at the very least, climate finance should exclude coal and other fossil fuels that scientists blame for warming the planet.

“Japan’s support for new

coal-fired power plants not only destroys the climate—it also displaces communities, is likely to cause untold local environmental damage, and primarily benefits Japanese companies instead of recipient countries,” said Brandon Wu of ActionAid.

“This is unacceptable on its own, and the fact that it is being done in the name of ‘climate finance’ makes a farce of the en-

tire concept,” he said.

Climate activists are now urging the recently created Green Climate Fund, which is supposed to become a key channel of climate finance, to explicitly

China rejects calls for release of women’s rights activists

BEIJING (AP)—China on Wednesday rejected growing international calls for the release of five women’s rights activists and accused critics of violating the country’s judicial sovereignty by appealing for the women’s freedom.

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying defended China’s legal system but said she had no specific details about the women’s cases.

“No one has the right to ask China to release relevant persons, so we hope that relevant people will stop interfering in China’s judicial sovereignty in such a manner,” Hua told reporters at a regularly scheduled

news briefing.

The five have been held in a Beijing detention center for almost three weeks, accused of creating a disturbance by planning to display posters raising awareness of sexual harassment to mark International Women’s Day on March 8.

Beijing police on Wednesday said they had no information about the cases.

If convicted, Wei Tingting, Li Tingting, Wang Man, Zheng Churan and Wu Rongrong could be sentenced to up to three years in prison. Five others detained at the same time have since been released.

Lawyers for the women say they are being held under

harsh conditions, are subject to lengthy interrogations and have been denied access to legal counsel.

The detentions have fed fears that Chinese authorities are clamping down on public speech and dissent.

U.S. Ambassador to the U.N. Samantha Power strongly criticized the detentions in a statement Friday. Power said the charge of “creating a disturbance” was a pretext for stifling their attempt to address pressing social problems.

“If China is committed to advancing the rights of women, then it should be working to address the issues raised by the women’s rights activists, not si-

lencing them,” Power said.

The European Union has also called for their release, saying their right to demonstrate peacefully—a right not generally acknowledged in China—had been violated.

Britain’s Foreign Office also said it was deeply concerned about the detentions, especially because of reports that they had been denied due legal process, and in Wu’s case, access to adequate medical care. “We urge China to release all those detained for exercising their rights to freedom of expression, in line with China’s Constitution and international human rights commitments,” it said in a statement.

14 killed in scaffolding collapse in central Vietnam

HANOI, Vietnam (AP)—At least 14 people were killed and 28 others were injured when scaffolding collapsed at a construction site in central Vietnam.

The deputy police chief in Ha Tinh province, Bui Dinh Quang, said Thursday that all the victims were Vietnamese subcontractors hired to work on a seaport breakwater project.

He said it was not known if any other workers were trapped in the rubble. Police and rescue workers are still searching through the rubble from the

Wednesday night accident.

Dinh Ninh Dan, 27, one of the survivors, said the workers were cleaning a frame for a giant concrete block for the breakwater when the scaffolding collapsed. There were more than 40 workers on the scaffolding at the time of the accident.

He said nearly an hour after they started work the scaffolding shook twice and many workers panicked and began running to an elevator before someone said there was no problem.

“After 10 more minutes, the

scaffolding which was about 20 meters (65 feet) high, suddenly collapsed. I quickly grabbed an iron bar but fell free,” Dan told The Associated Press by telephone from Ky Anh General Hospital in Ha Tinh province where he was being treated for hip pain along with eight others who suffered lesser injuries.

“People were screaming, calling for help from the rubble,” said Dan. “I was very lucky to survive.”

Dr. Hoang Song Hao of Ha

Tinh General Hospital said 19 workers were being treated, 15 with serious injuries.

The Son Duong seaport is part of the Vung Ang economic zone where Taiwan’s Formosa Plastics Corp. is building a multi-billion dollar steel complex.

The site was the scene of an anti-China protest last May where three Chinese nationals were killed following China’s deployment of an oil rig in disputed waters in the South China Sea.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Sri Lanka’s Sirisena meets China’s Xi amid new look at ties

BEIJING (AP)—Sri Lanka’s new president has held talks with Chinese leader Xi Jinping amid efforts to recalibrate his predecessor’s strongly pro-China policies. Maithripala Sirisena met with Xi on Thursday in Beijing at the start of his first visit to the Asian giant since taking office in January. Xi told Sirisena that China considers Sri Lanka a strategic partner and wants to further boost relations. The two sides were considered likely to discuss a \$1.5 billion China-funded port city project in Colombo which Sirisena’s government suspended pending scrutiny of environment impacts and alleged corruption. Sirisena’s administration has also ordered reviews of all China-funded projects.

Myanmar files charges against 69 education law protesters

YANGON, Myanmar (AP)—Authorities in Myanmar have filed criminal charges against 69 student activists and their supporters who were arrested two weeks ago when police cracked down on peaceful protests against a new education law. Protesters remained defiant as they sang songs and waved at family and supporters when they were brought in prison vans from Tharyarwaddy prison to Letpadan court on Wednesday morning. The charges

ban funding for fossil fuel projects. The issue is likely to be discussed at the GCF’s board meeting this week in South Korea.

The Matarbari plant is financed with a Japanese development loan agreed with the government of Bangladesh last June.

The Kudgi project is partially financed by the Japan Bank for International Cooperation, which supports Japanese companies abroad through export credits. JBIC agreed in January 2014 to provide \$210 million in loans to Indian power company NTPC Ltd. to finance the purchase of steam turbine generators and boiler feed water pumps to be used in the coal plant from a local subsidiary of Toshiba, a major Japanese company.

Construction there has resumed after coming to a standstill following violent protests last July when police opened fire on angry demonstrators. Two farmers were wounded in the shootings.

One of them, Chandappa Holleppa, said he was shot in the stomach and left hand.

filed against them involve five different counts ranging from hurting a public servant, which carries a maximum penalty of 3 years, to being a member of an unlawful assembly, which carries a 6-month prison sentence. “The government is using the old method to quash any dissenting voice by charging protesters with unfair laws,” said Robert San Aung, a prominent activist lawyer who will represent the students.

Finnish climber, local guide die on Mount Annapurna in Nepal

KATHMANDU, Nepal (AP)—A Finnish climber and his local guide died Wednesday while descending from the summit of Mount Annapurna in the first casualties of this mountaineering season, a Nepal mountaineering official said. Attempts were being made to bring the bodies of Samuli Mansikka, 36, and Pemba Sherpa, 35, back to the base camp from the 7,000-meter (22,990-foot) point where they were found, Mountaineering Department official Gyanendra Shrestha said. The two climbers had reached the 8,091-meter (26,540-foot) summit on Tuesday and were descending on Wednesday when they died of causes that were not immediately known, Shrestha said. A rescue helicopter was sent to help and their team members were also trying to bring down the bodies, he said.

World

Report: France jet audio shows pilot locked out of cockpit

SEYNE-LES-ALPES, France (AP)—The first half of Germanwings Flight 9525 was chilling in its normalcy. It took off from Barcelona en route to Duesseldorf, climbing up over the Mediterranean and turning over France. The last communication was a routine request to continue on its route.

Minutes later, at 10:30 a.m. Tuesday, the Airbus A320 inexplicably began to descend. Within 10 minutes it had plunged from its cruising altitude of 38,000 feet to just over 6,000 feet and slammed into a remote mountainside.

To find out why, investigators have been analyzing the mangled black box that contains an audio recording from the cockpit. Remi Jouty, the head of France's accident investigation bureau BEA, said

Wednesday that it has yielded sounds and voices, but so far not the "slightest explanation" of why the plane crashed, killing all 150 on board.

A newspaper report, however, suggests the audio contains intriguing information at the least: One of the pilots is heard leaving the cockpit, then banging on the door with increasing urgency in an unsuccessful attempt to get back in.

"The guy outside is knocking lightly on the door and there is no answer," The New York Times quotes an unidentified investigator as saying. "And then he hits the door stronger and no answer. There is never an answer."

Eventually, the newspaper quotes the investigator as saying: "You can hear he is trying to smash the door down."



This photo provided by the Gendarmerie Nationale shows debris of the crashed Germanwings passenger jet scattered on the mountain side near Seyne-les-Alpes, French Alps, Wednesday, March 25, 2015.

Wednesday, insisting the cause of the crash remained a mystery. They said the descent was gradual enough to suggest the plane was under the control of its navigators.

"At this point, there is no explanation," Jouty said. "One doesn't imagine that the pilot consciously sends his plane into a mountain."

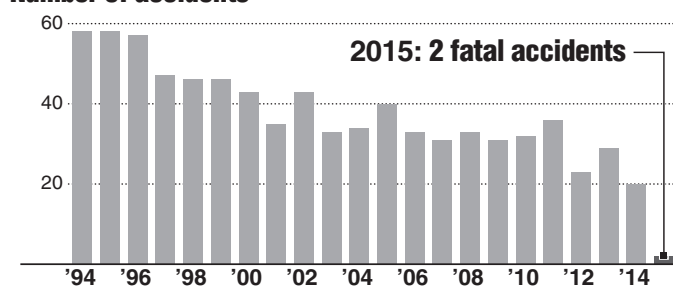
Jouty said "sounds and voices" were registered on the digital audio file recovered from the first black box. But he did not divulge the contents, insisting days or weeks will be needed to decipher them.

"There's work of understanding voices, sounds, alarms, attribution of different voices," the BEA chief said.

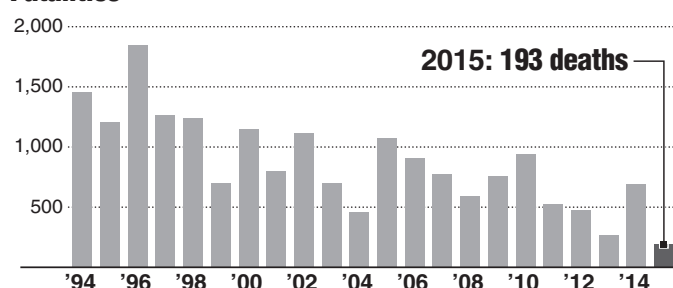
Plane crashes

Fatal accidents involving commercial jet planes (14 or more passengers)

Number of accidents



Fatalities



Source: Aviation Safety Network

Graphic: Tribune News Service

The investigator, whom the newspaper said could not be identified because the investigation is continuing, said officials don't know why the pilot left. He also does not speculate on why the other pilot didn't open the door or make contact with

ground control before the crash.

Since the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, airlines in the U.S. don't leave one pilot alone in the cockpit. The standard operating procedure is that if one of the pilots leaves—for example to use the bathroom—a flight

attendant takes their spot in the cockpit. It was not immediately clear if European airlines have adopted the same practice.

The names of the pilots have not been released.

French officials gave no details from the recording on

President of Yemen flees by sea; Saudis begin airstrikes

SANAA, Yemen (AP)—President Abed Rabbo Mansour Hadi fled Yemen by sea Wednesday as Shiite rebels and their allies moved on his last refuge in the south, captured its airport and put a bounty on his head, officials said. Hours later, Saudi Arabia announced it had begun airstrikes against the Houthi rebels.

The departure of the close U.S. ally and the imminent fall of the southern port of Aden pushed Yemen further toward a violent collapse. It also threatened to turn the impoverished but strategic country into another proxy battle between the

Middle East's Sunni powers and Shiite-led Iran.

Saudi ambassador to the United States Adel al-Jubeir said his country had begun airstrikes against the rebels. He said his government had consulted closely with the U.S. and other allies but that the U.S. military was not involved in the operations.

The White House said in a statement late Wednesday that the U.S. was coordinating military and intelligence support with the Saudis but not taking part directly in the strikes.

There were indications that others in the region would follow suit: The United Arab Emirates, Kuwait, Qatar and Bahrain joined

Saudi Arabia in a statement published by the Saudi Press Agency, saying they would answer a request from Hadi "to protect Yemen and his dear people from the aggression of the Houthi militias which were and are still a tool in the hands of foreign powers that don't stop meddling with the security and stability of brotherly Yemen." Oman, the sixth member of the Gulf Coop-

eration Council, didn't sign onto the statement.

In a statement from the state news agency Egypt, too, announced political and military support. "There is coordination ongoing now with Saudi Arabia and the brotherly gulf countries about preparations to participate with an Egyptian air and naval forces and ground troops if necessary," the statement said.

Arab leaders are expected to meet in Egypt's Red Sea resort of Sharm el-Sheik this weekend for a pre-planned summit, which is now expected to be dominated by the developments in Yemen. It is not clear if Hadi will be able to attend the summit.



Hadi

US, UN press Europe to make strong return to peacekeeping

UNITED NATIONS (AP)—Russia's aggressiveness in the east. The Islamic State group's sudden rise in the south. As Europe finds new threats close to home, it's now being asked by the United States to make a strong return to peacekeeping around the world as well.

The U.N. on Friday convenes an unprecedented meeting of defense officials from more than 100 countries to seek support for the largest peacekeeping effort ever deployed, with nearly 130,000 personnel in 16 missions from Congo to the Golan Heights. They face growing threats from groups like the Islamic State that have little regard for traditional ideas of war and peace.

Following up in September, President Barack Obama will chair a meeting on the sidelines of the annual U.N. General Assembly of world leaders, with the goal of collecting countries' peacekeeping

pledges after Friday's pitch by Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and other top officials.

Obama's envoy to the U.N., Ambassador Samantha Power, this month made it clear that Europe is expected to step up and is needed "more than ever." Two decades ago, European nations contributed more than 40 percent of U.N. peacekeepers, she said in a speech in Brussels. It's less than 7 percent now.

This call from the United States, easily the biggest contributor to the U.N.'s peacekeeping budget at \$2.5 billion, comes as tens of thousands of troops from European and other countries emerge from years of war in Iraq and Afghanistan. In her speech, Power envisioned the German and Dane helicopter pilots from Afghanistan doing similar work in Darfur, or Romanian and Czech patrols guarding bases in South Sudan.

If the U.N. had asked for this

kind of help earlier, it would have been seen as competing with the U.S.-led military effort of the past decade, said Jean-Marie Guehenno, a former U.N. peacekeeping chief and the current president of the International Crisis Group.

"Now, when the U.S. says, 'You're our allies, and one of the best ways to show friendship is to contribute to the U.N.,' that's quite a signal," he told The Associated Press.

Europe may need some convincing. The image many still have of U.N. peacekeeping is of twin failures two decades ago. In the Rwandan genocide, an existing peacekeeping force was swiftly reduced from 2,000 to 270 after 10 Belgian peacekeepers were killed. In Bosnia, Dutch peacekeepers were overwhelmed by Bosnian Serb forces who went on to massacre 8,000 Muslim men at Srebrenica.

Official: Boko Haram using civilians as human shields

ABUJA, Nigeria (AP)—Boko Haram is using an unknown number of civilians as human shields as its fighters flee an offensive by multinational forces, a top Nigerian official said Wednesday.

Mike Omeri, the director general of the National Orientation Agency would not say how many people are being used.

"Some say 500, some 400, some say 300," but Omeri said he was awaiting reports from authorities on the ground around Damasak, a trading town near the border with Niger that was recaptured on March 16.

Omeri stressed this was not a new incident and that the authorities are investigating.

Instead, he said that as troops advanced, Boko Haram rushed to a school where people had been held after the insurgents had seized the town

late last year.

They released some women and children, but not those they had "married in the period of occupation."

He said the fighters and those being used as shields still are in the Damasak area.

The soldiers who recaptured Damasak found the town largely deserted.

The troops from Chad and Niger who now hold Damasak have discovered evidence of a mass grave, Chad's ambassador to the United Nations, Mahamat Zene Cherif, confirmed Wednesday.

Boko Haram has killed thousands of civilians and kidnapped unknown hundreds in its fight to create an Islamic state.

The group was little known until it caused international outrage with its mass kidnapping almost a year ago of 276

girls from a government boarding school in northeast Chibok town. Dozens escaped in the first couple of days, but 219 remain missing. Their fate remains unknown and spawned the (hash)BringBackOurGirls campaign on social media.

Nigeria's battle against the Islamic extremists is a major issue for critical presidential elections to be held Saturday. International concern has mounted along with the toll: an estimated 10,000 killed in the 6-year-old insurgency last year alone. Boko Haram has vowed to violently disrupt the elections.

International assistance desperately is needed for the thousands of Nigerian refugees who have fled the violence, the head of the U.N. refugee agency said Wednesday as he visited a camp in Cameroon.

Off The Wall

Cow in Northeast Texas defies odds, gives birth to 4 calves

LUBBOCK, Texas (AP)—A cow in Northeast Texas has apparently defied great odds and given birth to four calves that have been named Eeny, Meeny, Miny and Moo.

Jimmy Barling said Monday that DNA tests will be done on tissue samples from the three bull calves and the one heifer calf to satisfy those who may question the births from one mother.

"We knew she was pregnant, but we didn't know she was going to do this," the 76-year-old Barling said. "This was a shock. This blew our minds."

Barling's wife, Dora Rumsey-Barling, owns the couple's 20 or so cattle outside of DeKalb, near the Arkansas and Oklahoma borders. Rumsey-Barling's granddaughter named the four black calves Eeny, Meeny, Miny and Moo, Barling said.

Local veterinarian Mike Baird called the March 16 births "extremely rare." He said the odds of four live births from one cow are 1 in 11.2 million. Baird knows the couple well and is nearly certain the four came from one mother, rather than a nearby cow

perhaps birthing one or two and then moving along so that it appeared the four came from the Barling's cow.

"In the interest of science and the animal world, it's one of those things that need to be verified beyond a shadow of a doubt," he said.

The couple watched the birth of the fourth calf after going to check on her when they saw buzzards circling above a field.

Because the mother cow is unable to nurse all four calves, the couple are relying on neighbors to help. Moo has stayed with her mother, while Eeny, Meeny and Miny are with two different caretakers. Meeny is the smallest of the calves, weighing in at about 25 pounds.

A typical healthy birth weight for a calf is 75 pounds. Standing has also been difficult for some of the quadruplets.

This photo provided by Jimmy Barling shows his wife, Dora Rumsey-Barling among four newborn calves on March 16, 2015, near DeKalb, Texas.



Privacy and private parts: Nude neighbor exposes law's limit

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP)—A Charlotte man who has continually irritated his neighbors by standing naked in the front door of his home has exposed a state law that local prosecutors want to change.

North Carolina law says a person can't expose himself in a place where the public has access. But CMPD spokesman Rob Tufano told The Charlotte Observer (<http://bit.ly/1BhqTzq>) that police want to change that, making it clear that it's unlawful for a person to expose himself if he can be seen from a public place.

Capt. Rod Golding said he had met with the district attorney's office and that there might be a way to prosecute Gerard Leeper under existing law. Golding said officers

have also talked with Leeper's family members about getting counseling for him.

Neighbors in the north Charlotte neighborhood where Leeper lives released some of their frustrations at a homeowners meeting at a neighborhood church Monday night. Police officers attended the meeting.

Leeper didn't speak at the meeting but told reporters before attending that it's his neighbors who are the problem, and he blamed them for conducting a witch hunt.

"I will not stand outside my door naked," Leeper said. "And no one has a picture of me standing outside my door naked. What they have is a picture of intrusion of seclusion."

As for standing at his door without clothes, Leeper said

he is not a threat to the neighborhood. He said the world needs to understand serenity and being reasonable. He didn't elaborate.

"We have to be mindful of when our kids go outside," Xavier Hodges, the homeowner's association president, told reporters after the meeting. "Sometimes you might have people who want to take matters into their own hands. As a community we don't want that."

Leeper's private parts have been on the public record before. Officers have arrested Leeper at his home three times on indecent exposure charges, and a spokeswoman for the Mecklenburg District Attorney's Office said Leeper was convicted and sentenced to 10 days in jail in 2006 for indecent exposure.

Feel-good tale: Man gets \$7M lottery ticket in get-well card

NEW CITY, N.Y. (AP)—A Pennsylvania man recovering from surgery has won \$7 million off a lottery ticket tucked into his get-well card.

Joseph Amorese, of Easton, got the ticket from his father, who lives in the hamlet of Congers in Rockland County, New York.

Amorese had just undergone hernia surgery. A few scratches later on the "\$7 million Golden Ticket," and he was feeling great.

"I scratched the ticket and it

was a good thing I was already sitting down because I was shocked. I was—and still am—in complete disbelief," Amorese said.

"I had surgery so I didn't jump up and down, but in my mind I was jumping up and down," the beaming winner recalled Wednesday.

He sent a photo of the ticket to his dad, who agreed that it was a winner.

The 46-year-old Verizon

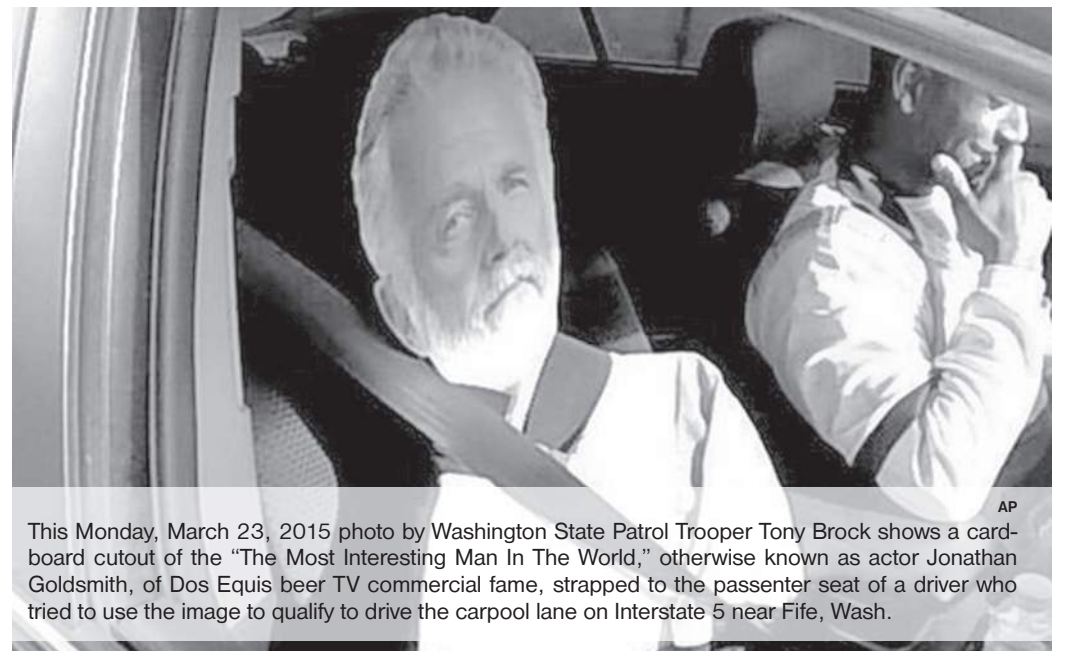
employee then called his wife, Jodi, a social worker.

"I said, 'Honey, I think we won \$7 million.' And there was silence on the other end for a long time. She was too stunned to talk," Amorese said.

Lottery officials presented Amorese with a ceremonial check at the dollar store in New City, New York, where the ticket was purchased.

The new multimillionaire and his wife plan to keep their jobs.

Cardboard 'Most Interesting Man' fails as carpool-lane ruse



This Monday, March 23, 2015 photo by Washington State Patrol Trooper Tony Brock shows a cardboard cutout of the "The Most Interesting Man In The World," otherwise known as actor Jonathan Goldsmith, of Dos Equis beer TV commercial fame, strapped to the passenger seat of a driver who tried to use the image to qualify to drive the carpool lane on Interstate 5 near Fife, Wash.

FIFE, Wash. (AP)—A Washington State Patrol trooper says it's by far the best carpool scam he's seen, but it didn't work.

As KOMO-TV put it, "Troopers don't always stop people in the HOV lanes, but when they do, they prefer 'dos' passengers."

A motorcycle trooper parked

along Interstate 5 near Tacoma on Monday afternoon spotted a driver and a rather unusual "passenger" pass by him in the carpool lane. When the trooper stopped the car, he discovered the "passenger" was a cardboard cutout of the actor who portrays "The Most Interesting Man in the World" in Dos Equis beer ads.

The driver's response? "He's my best friend."

The Most Interesting Man was not confiscated, but the driver was told not to use him again.

Channeling the cardboard cutout, the State Patrol tweeted: "I don't always violate the HOV lane law ... but when I do, I get a \$124 ticket."

OFFBEAT BRIEFS

Elephant hauler gets stuck; pachyderms keep truck upright

POWHATAN, La. (AP)—Louisiana authorities responding to a tractor-trailer stuck on the muddy shoulder of a highway were astounded to see what was keeping it from overturning: elephants. The Natchitoches Parish Sheriff's Office says the truck was carrying three elephants from New Orleans to Dallas but got stuck Tuesday when it pulled over onto the soft shoulder of Interstate 49 near Powhatan, about halfway through its trip.

The truck was leaning toward a ditch. The driver led two of the elephants onto the slope between the truck and ditch and used them to help prop it up. Police did not say who owns the elephants or the tractor-trailer. A wrecker pulled the rig out of the mud. The driver was not cited.

Cops: Man left behind credit card used to jimmy garage door

WEST SUNBURY, Pa. (AP)—State police in Pennsylvania say a trespassing suspect used his own credit

card to jimmy open a garage door, then left it behind when the homeowner suddenly appeared and startled him. The important clue helped police arrest 41-year-old Brent Henry, of East Butler, on Saturday in Clay Township. Police tell the Butler Eagle that Henry used the card to pick the lock at a friend's mobile home. Police say the homeowner heard a noise and caught Henry, who ran away but left the credit card behind. Police say Henry told them he planned to take some gasoline for another friend's car.

Science & Technology

Facebook's Messenger app to mix business with more pleasure

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Facebook's Messenger app is evolving into a multi-tasking tool equipped to send an animated fist bump to a friend at one moment and then get a little business done in the next.

In an effort to pull off the transformation, Facebook Inc. is opening Messenger so outside programmers can build features tailored for the service. By the end of April, Messenger will also be adding the ability to display store receipts and shipping information to help consumers keep track of their interactions with merchants and other businesses.

The push to diversify Messenger addresses a potential threat to Facebook's ubiquitous social network posed by a variety of mobile messaging maps offering more intimate and direct ways to connect with friends.

Younger people, in particular, are increasingly using a wide range of mobile messaging apps to communicate while spending less time broadcasting their activities on Facebook's more expansive social network. The list of apps pulling people away from Facebook includes Snapchat, KakaoTalk, Kik, Line, Secret, Tango, Viber, and Whisper.

Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg touted the Messenger expansion Wednesday to about 2,000 app developers at the opening of a two-day con-



CEO Mark Zuckerberg gestures while delivering the keynote address at the Facebook F8 Developer Conference Wednesday, March 25, 2015, in San Francisco.

ference in San Francisco.

"We have been building Messenger into a service to express beyond text," Zuckerberg said. He promised even more features will be rolling out the months ahead.

Since Messenger's introduction four years ago, Facebook already has added the ability to attach video, share videos, swap stickers, make phone calls and send money.

Thanks largely to its Facebook ties,

Messenger already has more than 600 million users, Zuckerberg said. Facebook's social network is more than twice as large with about 1.4 billion users.

The social network remains the foundation for one of the Internet's most successful businesses. Facebook's revenue last year surged 58 percent to \$12.5 billion, a performance that has enabled the company's stock price to more than double from its initial public offering price of \$38 in 2012. The shares hit a record high

of \$86.07 earlier this week, though they dropped \$2.39 to close at \$82.92 Wednesday amid a broad market downturn.

The growing popularity of mobile messaging, though, could result in less time spent on social networks, a shift that would give Facebook fewer opportunities to learn about its users' interests and show the digital ads that make most of the company's money.

That threat is propelling Messenger's expansion and also prompted Zuckerberg to spend \$22 billion last year to buy WhatsApp, another mobile messaging service that has more than 700 million users.

A large segment of WhatsApp's audience is located in less affluent countries outside the U.S. and western Europe, making it more likely that it won't be adding as many new tools as Messenger has, said David Marcus, who oversees Facebook's messaging products. Most Messenger apps are installed on iPhones and top-of-the-line Android phones, which provide the processing power needed to handle a range of multipurpose tools.

Analysts widely expect Facebook to begin showing ads with Messenger as people spend more time in the app to

do different things, though the Menlo Park, California, company hasn't revealed plans to turn the app into a marketing vehicle.

The decision to allow outside applications to operate within Messenger mirrors a pivotal decision that Zuckerberg made eight years ago when he opened Facebook to other programmers. That move transformed Facebook into an even more influential, multipurpose hub for doing everything from playing games to buying gifts.

Marcus, who formerly ran PayPal, is hoping Messenger will follow a similar pattern now that it is operating as an open platform. "We have opened the floodgates," he said.

Facebook is counting on apps from other developers to enable Messenger users to express their feelings with GIFs, audio clips and other dynamic formats that "will bring a smile to people's faces," Marcus said.

In his presentation, Zuckerberg predicted messaging apps eventually will include virtual-reality technology, something that Facebook acquired last year when it bought Oculus for \$2 billion. Oculus' twist on virtual reality will be demonstrated at the conference Thursday.

Smartphone domination pretty close to complete

By PATRICIA SABATINI
PITTSBURGH POST-GAZETTE

In case you haven't raised your head long enough to notice the throngs of people gazing hypnotically at their smartphones, the nation has passed a milestone.

Smartphones now make up 75 percent of the mobile phone market, up from 65 percent a year ago and just 2 percent a decade ago, according to the Internet analytics firm comScore.

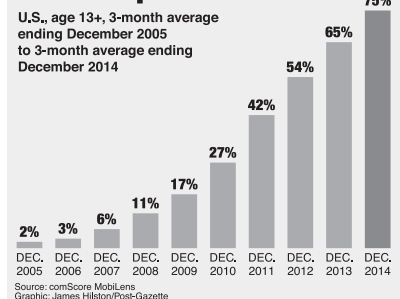
Put another way, three-quarters of

Americans age 13 and older now have smartphones. Most other people have some other type of cell phone, such as a flip phone or TracFone, used mostly for old-fashioned talking.

The percentage of people who don't own any kind of mobile phone is so low it's not worth mentioning, said Andrew Lipsman, vice president of marketing and insights at comScore, based in Reston, Va.

"If you take a look at the big picture, it's how mobile has taken over and be-

Smartphones now own 75% of mobile phone market



come the dominant platform through which people engage in digital media," he said.

Desktop computer usage has flattened out, but people are spending more time in front of a digital screen—whether it be on the way to work, throughout the day, sitting in front of the TV or in bed at night—because of the availability of smartphones and tablets, he said.

On the plus side, as a nation of smartphone users connected to the Internet 24/7, people are better informed and may be learning more quickly, Lipsman said.

Still, there are negative implications to consider, as well.

"Obviously, the drawback is what that (greater reliance on smartphones) means for how people engage with each other," he said.

Research released last month by the digital technology firm Apigee in San Jose, Calif., along with Stanford University's Mobile Innovation Group, found a deepening dependence on smartphones for social interaction.

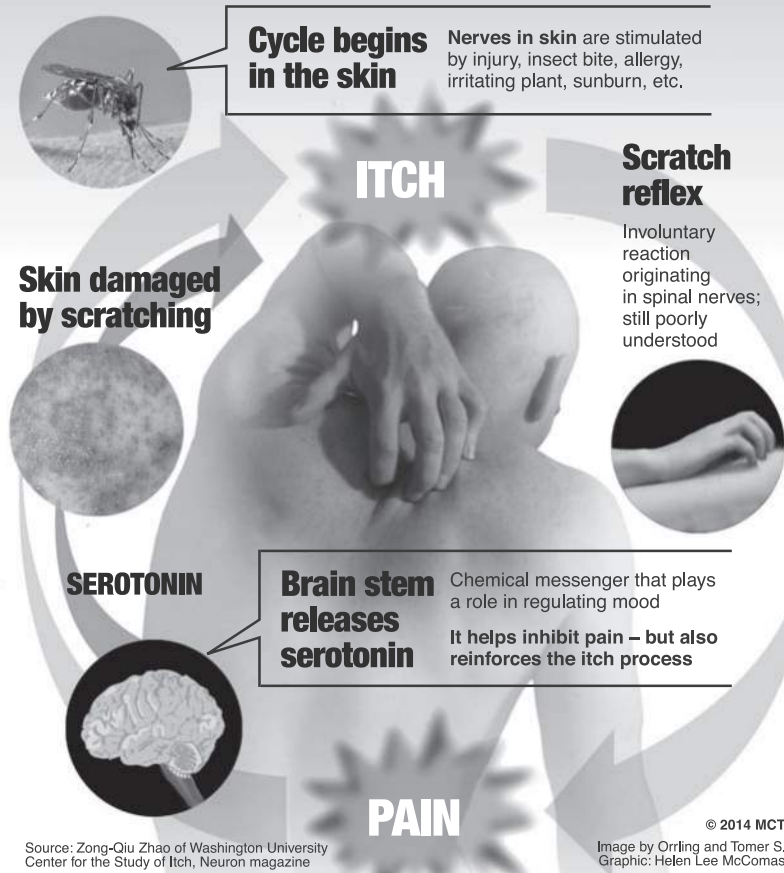
Dependency was strongest among the one-quarter of smartphone users who reported using their devices the most.

Among these top users, the majority said they used their phones "nearly all the time," including while at dinner with others.

Science Matters

Why scratching worsens an itch

It's a vicious cycle. We scratch an itch, causing minor skin pain, then the brain releases serotonin to reduce the pain, but that makes nerves send more itch signals to the brain.



Source: Zong-Qiu Zhao of Washington University Center for the Study of Itch, Neuron magazine

TECH Q&A

How spam emailers hide their identities

By STEVE ALEXANDER
STAR TRIBUNE (MINNEAPOLIS)

Q: Lately I've been receiving spam (unwanted junk) emails that come from invalid email addresses. As a result, my security software won't let me add the addresses to its spam list for future blocking. What are the spammers trying to pull now, and what can I do about it?—Gene Borscheid, St. Louis Park, Minn.

A: Unfortunately, there's not much you can do about it. You've encountered an old hacking trick called "spoofing," which means faking the originating address in an email. Spam senders use spoofing either to hide their real email addresses (so you can't add them to a spam-blocking list), or to fool you into clicking on an email link because it appears to have been sent by a friend or a company that you trust. Spoofing is widespread because it's easy; there are even online tutorials explaining how to do it (see tinyurl.com/mqvalx8.)

The only real defense against spoofing is the screening done by email providers before they send mail to your inbox, but that detection is hit or miss. For example, an email service provider can identify a spoofed email that originated within its own service. But, due to a lack widely accepted email security standards, it's harder to identify spoofed email from an outside source.

Readers who use such email providers as Gmail, Outlook.com, AOL or Yahoo can try a technical trick that may temporarily block spam. By reading the email's accompanying "source code" (see tinyurl.com/9melpmw) they can learn the "IP (Internet Protocol) address" of the spam sender's computer. All online computers have this identifying number, and most security programs can be set to block a specific IP address. But after enough blocked emails bounce back, the spam sender will just use another PC with a different IP address.

Although you can't stop spoofed email, you can avoid it. If an email address has misspellings or is quite long and contains blank spaces, it's probably spam. If a sender appears to be someone you know, ask yourself if that sender would email you a message with links to click on.

Q: During a trip to Europe, we plan to use a smartphone as our GPS (Global Positioning System) unit. What kind of a portable charging device can we use when we don't have access to an electrical outlet? Is it better to have a charger or a second phone battery?—John Zesbaugh, Minneapolis

A: Your choice will depend on how often you need to recharge the phone while away from electrical outlets. Smartphone replacement batteries that you can swap out yourself cost \$10 to \$20 online (see tinyurl.com/onzm89e.) Replacement iPhone batteries are also available, but they aren't easy to change.

Alternatively, you can buy a portable charging device that will cost from \$15 to \$60 (see tinyurl.com/qbannrz). These devices are typically compatible with different phone brands and models. In addition, they can recharge your phone more than once before running out of power.

Steve Alexander covers technology for the Minneapolis Star Tribune. Readers may write to him at Tech Q&A, 425 Portland Ave. S., Minneapolis, Minn. 55488-0002; email: steve.j.alexander@gmail.com. Please include a full name, city and phone number.

Life & Style

New direction: 1D says Zayn Malik has left the group

LONDON (AP)—And then there were four: Zayn Malik said Wednesday he is leaving chart-topping boy band One Direction “to be a normal 22-year-old.”

In an announcement that broke teenage hearts and sent social media into a tizzy, Malik’s bandmates said they were sad to see him go “but we totally respect his decision and send him all our love for the future.”

Malik, who quit the band’s world tour last week citing stress, said in a statement that his time with One Direction “has been more than I could ever have imagined.”

“But, after five years, I feel like it is now the right time for me to leave the band,” he said. “I’d like to apologize to the fans if I’ve let anyone down, but I have to do what feels right in my heart.

“I am leaving because I want to be a normal 22-year-old who is able to relax and have some private time out of the spotlight.”

Although rumors had swirled that Malik was unhappy in the



band, fans expressed surprise at the news.

“I’m a bit shocked as to why he’s leaving,” said 19-year-old student Sophia Staite.

“It seems strange. It seems

they could have gone on for much, much longer, they do have the best fan base of any group or singer. It’s quite sad because they have always been quite a close band.”

One Direction, which is currently on a world tour, said it would continue with the four remaining members and would record a new album later this year.

Last week Malik flew home

from a tour stop in the Philippines, citing stress.

Malik’s departure from the tour came after he hit back at rumors of trouble in his relationship with fiancée Perrie Edwards of the band Little Mix.

Before his departure authorities in the Philippines imposed

AP
Zayn Malik flies home from One Direction tour with stress. In this Nov. 23, 2014 file photo Liam Payne, from left, Niall Horan, Louis Tomlinson, Zayn Malik and Harry Styles of the musical group One Direction arrive at the 42nd annual American Music Awards at Nokia Theatre L.A. Live in Los Angeles.

a \$5,000 “weed bond” on Malik and fellow band member Louis Tomlinson, with the money to be forfeited if either was caught using or promoting illegal drugs.

A video that circulated online last year appeared to show Malik and Tomlinson smoking cannabis and joking about drug use.

The next scheduled date on One Direction’s “On the Road Again” tour is in Johannesburg, South Africa, on Saturday.

One Direction formed in 2010 after five teenagers—Harry Styles, Liam Payne, Niall Horan, Tomlinson and Malik—auditioned individually for the British TV talent show “The X Factor.” Simon Cowell had the idea of putting them together as a boy band.

Felicity Jones says ‘Stars Wars’ role is ‘really exciting’

NEW YORK (AP)—Felicity Jones laughs and says “absolutely” when asked if she’s coming up with various ways to say she can’t talk about her starring role in the “Star Wars” spin-off “Rogue One.”

“I can’t talk about it. It’s really, really exciting but I can’t talk about it,” she said in a recent interview.

The film was confirmed by Disney’s Bob Iger at a shareholders meeting in San Francisco earlier this month. Gareth Edwards (“Godzilla)

will begin directing this summer. The movie is scheduled for a Dec. 16, 2016, release.

Jones, 31, said she has had “a fantastic, fantastic few months.” She was nominated for a best-actress Oscar for her role as Jane Hawking in “The Theory of Everything,” and she says all the women nominated in that category supported each other.



Jones

“It felt very uncompetitive which was really nice,” she said. “It felt like we were all supporting each other.” (Julianne Moore won for “Still Alice.”)

“Along the way you just bump into the same people,” Jones said of the awards show circuit. “And for all the women in the category we all became really good friends by the end of it. You’d be like, ‘Hey, how are you?’ I did feel like there was a lot of

camaraderie between us which was really nice.”

She said it is also nice doing publicity for other projects. “I had a fantastic time with (“The Theory of Everything”) and it was a very, very special project to be a part of so I didn’t mind speaking about it endlessly, but I do have to say it’s nice to be talking about something else. Definitely.”

Her next film, “True Story,” starring James Franco and Jonah Hill, is a true crime drama. It will be in theaters April 17.

Celine Dion returns to Vegas

LAS VEGAS (AP)—Celine Dion is returning to The Colosseum stage at Caesars Palace in Las Vegas starting Aug. 27 after a year-long hiatus to care for her husband, allow her inflamed throat muscles to heal and spend time with her three children.

Caesars Entertainment Corp. announced Wednesday that the singer’s residency would resume with 40 performances between August and January.

The singer says in a statement

that it was her husband Rene Angelil who urged her return to the stage since last performing at The Colosseum on July 29 and cancelling a fall Asian tour. Angelil has been recovering after having a cancerous tumor removed last year.

A representative for Dion confirmed earlier this month that she would eventually return but without four of her band members whose contracts weren’t renewed.

The time has come to end sisters’ four-year silence

DEAR ABBY: I have been estranged from my sister for four years. She lives across the country, so it hasn’t been difficult to hold a grudge. Either because I’m turning 50 this year, or maybe it’s old-fashioned guilt, I have been feeling the right thing to do is to make amends.

My question is—how? Should I write a letter, send an email or call her? To be honest, if she made those efforts to me, I would rebuff them. The two of us are similar, so what would be a good way to bridge the conflict?

HARD-HEADED HAWAIIAN

DEAR H.H.H.: If you call your sister, her knee-jerk reaction might be to hang up. If you email her, it’s too easy to hit “delete.”

Write her a letter. Tell her you love her, miss her and are sorry for the estrangement. If there is something you need to apologize for, do it in the letter. Wait a week, then give her a call.

If she is as similar to you as you think, she may be as glad to hear your voice as you will be to hear hers. And if she’s not, your conscience will be clear because you tried.

DEAR ABBY: For the past few years, my mother, with whom I spend my birthday every year, has gotten into the habit of buying my birthday presents the day of. She waits until my birthday day, then buys them in a rush all at one store or suggests we go shop-

ping together. She’s not stingy on price. In fact, she tends to spend more than I think she should.

What bothers me is she makes no effort to prepare a gift in advance and just asks me then and there what I want. She also often buys me a number of things I didn’t ask for.

The last thing I want to do on my birthday is go shopping. It has made me increasingly less excited about my birthday each year. How do I explain to her without sounding ungrateful that I’d rather receive one thoughtful present than a lot of expensive ones?

DOWN ON BIRTHDAYS IN HOUSTON

DEAR DOWN ON BIRTHDAYS: Excuse me, but you DO sound ungrateful. Your mother may not be as emotionally invested in birthday celebrations as you are. Or, she may do this because she wants to ensure that you have gifts for your birthday you can actually use.

Rather than criticize her generosity, why not mention in the weeks before your birthday what you might like to have? If you do, it might save her some money and you some frustration.

DEAR ABBY: My daughter is being married soon, and I have an enormous fear that I need some help with. I can’t dance. At all. I took some lessons, but I have no sense of rhythm. Although I tell people I can’t and won’t dance, inevitably some guy has a little too much to drink and tries to drag me to the dance floor.

DEAR ABBY

By **ABIGAIL VAN BUREN**
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



My husband dances and I encourage him to have a good time, but if he’s dancing and I’m sitting alone, someone is sure to ask me. Please help me with a good comeback or a little white lie to keep me off the dance floor!

CAN’T DANCE IN COLORADO

DEAR CAN’T DANCE: I suppose the most common little white lie would be to plead a sprained ankle. But a more honest reply would be to thank the person and say you prefer not to because you’re not comfortable on the dance floor. Said with a smile, it shouldn’t offend anybody, even if he has had a few.

Good advice for everyone – teens to seniors – is in “The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It.” To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

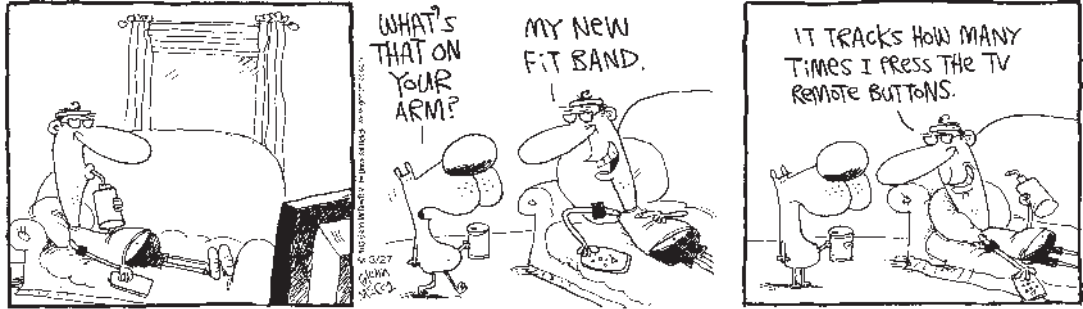
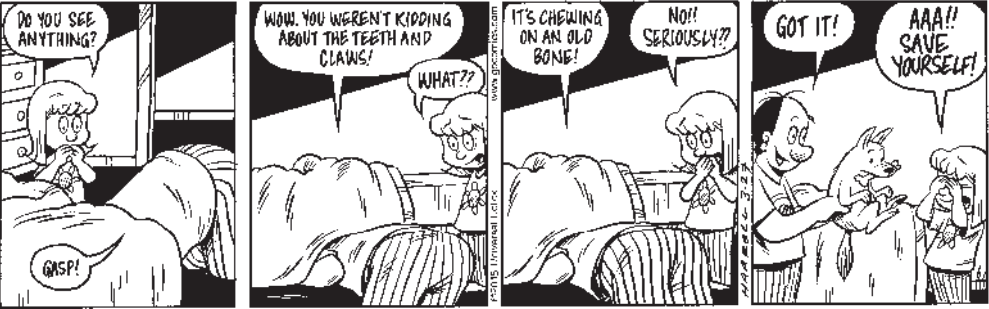


Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS 1 Vacationing 4 Told a tale 8 React in pain 12 Roman money 13 Between jobs 14 Competent 15 Stevenson's personification of good 17 Leave at the altar 18 Whine 19 E.T.'s carrier? 21 Under the weather 22 "Sex for Dummies" writer 26 Eccentric 29 Attention getter 30 Vast expanse 31 Craving 32 Foundation 33 Minus 34 Mound stat

35 "Monkey suit" 36 Circumference 37 TV advice giver 39 Alcott book "— Boys" 40 Moray, for one 41 Dermatologist's case 45 Sail support 48 "A Study in Scarlet" narrator 50 Headlight? 51 — and terminator 52 Expert 53 Unimprovable place

54 Money 55 Longing

DOWN 1 Auto-maker Ransom Eli — 2 Spore producer 3 Type of apple 4 Probable 5 Pastoral opus 6 Blueprint addition 7 Tricked 8 Colleague's choice 9 Sapporo sash 10 The whole enchilada 11 Bottom line 16 Oust 20 Saute 23 Addict 24 Criterion 25 Scrambled eggs side dish 26 Coaster 27 Kitten's sound 28 Now, on a memo 29 Whammy 32 Edition sold the night before 33 "Hungaria" composer 35 Dead heat 36 Kid's racer 38 Egret's cousin 39 Precious stone 42 Catch sight of 43 Additional 44 Any time now 45 That girl 46 Cushion 47 Ginger — 49 Reuben holder

Solution time: 26 mins.

W A R P F E G S C A P
A S I A O B O E A G E
S P O R S B A R N U S
A S T R A Y V I D E O
O R Q U E R Y
J E S T B U G E B C N
A R P A I L A R E
B E A U S T Y C R E W
C L A S S F A
C I E T S O U T A G E
R O B H A N D L E B A R
E T A E G A D R U M S
W A R S O B S S T E T

Yesterday's answer 3-27

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Fergie, 40; Nathan Fillion, 44; Mariah Carey, 45; Pauley Perrette, 46.

Happy Birthday: Keep things in perspective. Overreacting or letting your emotions take over will lead to disputes and setbacks. Be smart and put your energy to good use. Strive to reach your goals using discipline, courage and strength. Look out for the interests of yourself and your loved ones, but refrain from spending too much money on luxury items that you can do without. Your numbers are 6, 15, 23, 26, 28, 35, 47.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Keep a watch over what others do and say. Staying on top of your situation will be half the battle. Finding a way to do things differently and more efficiently will make the difference between success and failure. ***

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Love is highlighted. Make an effort to accommodate someone special, and you will find new ways to strengthen your relationship. Don't let an outsider interfere in your personal life. Call the shots and make things happen. ****

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Let things unfold naturally. Keeping the peace and going with the flow will make your life easier. Don't let emotions take over in the workplace. Behaving inconsistently will not work in your favor. Choose your words wisely. **

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Engage in conversations with people you find motivating and inspirational. The boost you get and the creative ideas that come to you will push you in a direction that is fruitful. Someone you love will help you reach your goal. *****

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Refrain from getting involved in a risky venture. You are best to go it alone when it comes to financial endeavors. Focus on home, family and improving your standard of living. Don't incur more debt. Put your personal papers in order. ***

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Work on self-improvement, creative endeavors or getting your priorities straight. You can make positive changes if you are honest about what actually needs to be done. A serious discussion will improve a relationship. **

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Your personal interactions through groups you join or volunteer with will lead to new friendships. Consider taking a short trip if it will inspire you. A change of scenery will do you a world of good. ****

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): An offer presented will not turn out to be as exciting as you are led to believe. Don't hesitate to ask questions or negotiate. Take a look at your motivations for making a career move. It's important that you control the outcome. ***

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Emotions will surface, making your mood swings difficult to deal with. Try to contain your feelings, especially when dealing with business-

EUGENIA LAST
THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Don't get caught up in other people's problems. If you meddle, you will end up being blamed for the outcome. Focus on your life, your home and the people you care about most. Spend quality time with the ones you love. ***

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Revive an old plan or goal. You can make extra cash if you make a couple of changes that fit a need in your community. Take care not to take on too much physically, emotionally or financially. ***

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Put your plans into motion before someone has a chance to suppress what you want to pursue. Making personal improvements will encourage you to be more outgoing and will attract people who want to be a part of your life. Love is highlighted. *****

Birthday Baby: You are proud and independent. You are energetic, demonstrative and thoughtful.

Eugenia's website—eugenialast.com, Eugenia's android app @ <http://bit.ly/exhoro> and join Eugenia on [twitter/facebook/linkedin](https://twitter.com/eugenialast).

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Difficulty Level ★★★★★ 3/27

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WONDERWORD By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

SUCCESSFUL MOM & POP BUSINESSES Solution: 11 letters

O W C O S B O J T E A L E A F
F R R O P E R A T E D E C O R
A I G H S P E O U A E C A L G
M G R A T N B Y S H O P S C M
I L O I N R A E O U C R O W A
L E C R A I A E N L C M A H T
Y Y E D R Y Z T B U P L S O T
G A R R U E A A S E M M W L E
R N Y E A N R T T A E N E E L
E K T S T O O I R I E F N F D
N E R S S M T T A D O T Y F O N
E E A E E O C O M P A N Y O A
P I P R R D E T A C I D E D C
O O S S O B U R T S B E E S N
S N A L P I E C E S Y R R E J

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Accountants, Ben, Boss, Burt's Bees, Candle, Coffee Bean, Company, Competitors, Customers, Decor, Dedicated, Employees, Energy, Family, Glaceau, Grocery, Grow, Hairdressers, Jerry's, Jobs, Mattel, Money, News, Open, Operated, Organization, Owned, Party, Pieces, Plans, Restaurants, Shops, Start, Tea Leaf, Wal-Mart, Whole Foods, Wrigley, Yankee

Yesterday's Answer: Beautiful

The WONDERWORD MILLENNIUM SERIES #2 is here! Purchase on line at www.WonderWordBooks.com or call 1-800-642-6480. (Contains 100 puzzles.)

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Peachtree/QuickBooks. 3 - 5

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Criminal Record.

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Background in writing

merchandise

proposals/negotiations.

Computer literate.

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holder of Fine Arts.

1- Sales Representative

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Microsoft/Excel literate. Must

know how to write Business

Proposals. Able to drive.

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Apparel Business. Good

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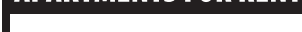
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Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

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Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

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/s/ **JESSE S. PALACIOS**
Corporate Director

Irving scores 24 to lead Cavaliers past Grizzlies, 111-89



MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP)—The Cleveland Cavaliers' recent dominance carried over to a trouncing of one of the best teams in the Western Conference.

The Cavaliers built a 29-point lead in the third quarter, maintained the cushion through the fourth and defeated Memphis 111-89 on Wednesday night, handing the Grizzlies their biggest home loss of the season.

Kyrie Irving scored 24 points, Kevin Love added 22 points and 10 rebounds for Cleveland, which won its fourth straight and eighth in the last nine. Since Jan. 15, Cleveland is 28-6 and holds the Eastern Conference's second seed by a three-game cushion over Chicago.

"We came to play," Cavaliers coach David Blatt said. "We were focused on having a defensive presence in the first quarter, and I thought we had that right from the get go."

LeBron James finished with 20 points and Timofey Mozgov added 14 for Cleveland. J.R. Smith had 13 points for the Cavaliers, who shot 51 percent and were 14 of 34 from 3-point range.

Marc Gasol led Memphis with 18 points, while Beno Udrih scored 15. Jeff Green had 11 points for Memphis, which had its three-game winning streak snapped.

The Grizzlies, who hold the second seed in the West, saw their advantage over third-place Houston shrink to 1 1/2 games after the Rockets defeated the New Orleans Pelicans 95-93 on Wednesday night.

The game was not in doubt after the big third quarter from the Cavaliers, who outscored Memphis 36-24 in the frame.

"It makes you have a sickness in your stomach because you know you're better than that," said Memphis forward Zach Randolph, who was limited to five points and three rebounds.

Cleveland controlled the boards with a 49-32 advantage. And while Memphis outscored Cleveland 50-38 in the paint, the Grizzlies converted only 25 of 49 shots in close.

"I thought we missed a lot of shots, and they were able to play free and loose, playing from the lead for most of the game," Memphis coach Dave Joergers said.

The game completely got away from Memphis in the third when Cleveland connected on 11 of its first 13 shots in the quarter, including 3 of 4 from 3-point range. The Cavaliers would convert 14 of 19 shots in the third, contributing to Cleveland extending its 13-point halftime lead to a 91-66 advantage entering the fourth—a lead so substantial Joergers left his starters on the bench for the final period.

"Everyone really stepped up in the third quarter," Love said. "So it was really, really good basketball."

The Cavaliers were able to convert because Memphis appeared to simply be going through the motions on both



Cleveland Cavaliers forward Kevin Love (0) sets a pick against Memphis Grizzlies guard Mike Conley, center, as Cavaliers guard Kyrie Irving drives toward the basket in the first half of an NBA basketball game Wednesday, March 25, 2015, in Memphis, Tenn.

ends of the floor after halftime. The Grizzlies' defense, which is among the best in the league, was virtually nonexistent as Cleveland converted on dunks and jumpers.

"We obviously know how great they are defensively, especially in this building," James said. "For us to move the ball and share the ball like we did in the facet that we did was very impressive."

Rockets 95, Pelicans 93

In New Orleans, James Harden had 25 points and 10 assists, and Dwight Howard had seven rebounds and a block on Anthony Davis in his return from a two-month absence as Houston handed New Orleans its fourth straight loss.

Davis had 24 points and 14 rebounds for the Pelicans, but uncharacteristically missed eight free throws, including one that could have pulled New Orleans to 94-93 with 7 seconds left.

The Pelicans still had a chance to set up a trying 3-pointer after Harden missed a free throw with 3.3 seconds left, but Corey Brewer intentionally fouled Eric Gordon on the inbound pass to force free throws. Gordon made the first and purposely missed the second in hopes for a tying putback that never materialized.

Spurs 130, Thunder 91

In San Antonio, Tony Parker had 21 points and six assists as San Antonio stopped Oklahoma City's four-game winning streak.

Boris Diaw scored 19 points, and Tim Duncan had 16, and Kawhi Leonard 14 points in the Spurs' highest scoring game of the season. They have won 11 of 13.

Thunder star Russell Westbrook was held to 16 points on 5-for-16 shooting. He left midway through the third quarter with the Spurs leading by 30. Westbrook averaged 32.7 points, 11.2 assists and 9.6 rebounds in his previous 13 games.

Hawks 95, Magic 83

In Orlando, Florida, Paul Millsap had 25 points and 11 rebounds as Atlanta ended a three-game losing streak with a win over Orlando.

Jeff Teague added 16 points, despite spraining his left ankle in the first quarter.

The Hawks trailed by 13 in the first half, but outscored the Magic 27-12 in the fourth quarter.

Elfrid Payton led the Magic with 19 points and nine rebounds. Victor Oladipo and Nik Vucevic added 16 points apiece.

Orlando had just five turnovers in the first half, but finished the night with 17.

The Magic lost their second straight and have dropped eight of their last nine.

Bulls 116, Raptors 103

In Toronto, Jimmy Butler scored 23 points and Pau Gasol had 18 as Chicago beat Toronto.

Tony Snell scored 17 points to help the Bulls move 1 1/2 games ahead of the Raptors for

third place in the Eastern Conference. Aaron Brooks had 16 points, and Nikola Mirotic finished with 15.

Toronto has dropped three of four. It has lost five in a row to Chicago.

Greivis Vasquez had 22 points for the Raptors, and DeMar DeRozan added 20. Vasquez also matched a career high with six 3-pointers.

Clippers 111, Knicks 80

In New York, DeAndre Jordan raised the NBA's best shooting percentage above 71 percent by making all seven shots and scoring 14 points, as Los Angeles pounded New York.

Shooting all night from either right at or above the rim—and once right on top of Jason Smith—Jordan hiked his season average to .713, which would be second only to Wilt Chamberlain's .727 in 1972-73.

Chris Paul added 11 points and 16 assists for the Clippers. They won their fifth straight and improved the fourth-best record in the Western Conference to 47-25. Austin Rivers scored 21 points in 19 minutes.

Rookie Cleanthony Early had a season-high 18 points for the Knicks. They lost their fifth straight to drop to 14-58 and move a loss away from matching the franchise record.

Kings 108, Suns 99

In Phoenix, DeMarcus Cousins scored 24 points, all but four in the first three quarters, and had

11 rebounds to help Sacramento beat Phoenix.

Cousins also had three assists, two steals and a block, and Rudy Gay scored 14 points for the Kings. They have won four straight.

Markieff Morris scored 24 points, and Eric Bledsoe and Marcus Morris added 19 each for the Suns.

Phoenix squandered an opportunity to make up a game on eighth-place Oklahoma City in the Western Conference. The Thunder were routed at San Antonio. Phoenix trails Oklahoma City by three games for the West's final playoff spot.

Pacers 103 Wizards 101

In Washington, George Hill made a driving layup with 2.7 seconds left to lift Indiana past Washington, ending the Pacers' six-game losing streak.

Hill scored 29 points, including 12 in the fourth quarter as Indiana rallied from a 10-point deficit.

Washington's John Wall, who scored 17 of his season-high 34 points in the final quarter, tied the game with a 3-pointer from the top of the key with 11 seconds left.

Heat 93, Celtics 86

In Boston, Goran Dragic had 22 points and seven assists as banged-up Miami beat Boston.

Luol Deng added 15 points for Miami, and Udonis Haslem had 12 points and 12 rebounds. Henry Walker and Tyler Johnson also scored 12 points apiece.

Miami played without Dwyane Wade, Hassan Whiteside and Chris Andersen due to injuries, but bounced back quite nicely from Tuesday night's 89-88 loss at Milwaukee. The Heat blew a 14-point lead in the final 6 1/2 minutes against the Bucks.

Miami has won four of six and is seventh in the Eastern Conference playoff race.

Jae Crowder scored 16 points for the Celtics.

Nets 91, Hornets 88

In Charlotte, North Carolina, Brook Lopez had 34 points and 10 rebounds and Brooklyn handed slumping Charlotte its fifth loss in six games.

The center came into the game on a tear, having scored at least 26 points in each of his last three games, including 31 on Monday night against Boston.

Deron Williams had 10 points, 14 assists and seven rebounds for the Nets.

Nets forward Thaddeus Young left the game late in the third quarter with a hyperextended knee and did not return. Team officials said X-rays were negative and he will be re-evaluated Thursday.

Gerald Henderson and Al Jefferson each had 23 points for the Hornets.

Trail Blazers 92, Jazz 89

In Salt Lake City, Damian Lillard had 23 points and 12 assists as Portland overcame a 10-point deficit in the fourth quarter to beat Utah.

Lillard helped Portland snap a five-game losing streak, scoring 13 fourth-quarter points. LaMarcus Aldridge added 19 points and nine rebounds.

Derrick Favors led Utah with 26 points and 13 rebounds, and Trey Burke added 22 points on 9-of-19 shooting. Rudy Gobert had 12 points and 10 rebounds.

Lakers 101, Timberwolves 99, OT

In Minneapolis, Jordan Clarkson hit two free throws with 0.3 seconds left in overtime to lift Los Angeles past Minnesota.

Clarkson scored eight points in overtime and finished with 20. Jeremy Lin added 19 points to help the Lakers snapped a five-game road losing streak.

Andrew Wiggins had 27 points for Minnesota.

Chase Budinger scored 22 points and sent the game to overtime with a 3-pointer with 6.6 seconds left in regulation.

76ers 99, Nuggets 85

In Denver, rookie Robert Covington equalized a career high with 25 points as Philadelphia beat Denver. Nerlens Noel had 14 points and 15 rebounds to help the 76ers sweep the season series.

Ty Lawson scored 19 points, and Wilson Chandler had 16 points and 11 rebounds for the Nuggets.

Covington, who also tied a career high with six 3-pointers, scored 15 points in a 6:16 span of the third quarter to give Philadelphia a 66-62 lead.

Coach Zimmer 'fully expects' Peterson to be with Vikings



PHOENIX (AP)—The Minnesota Vikings don't plan to trade Adrian Peterson and fully expect him to be with the team for the 2015 season.

His agent and Peterson believe otherwise.

Vikings coach Mike Zimmer was emphatic about keeping Peterson at the NFL owners' meetings Wednesday.

"We're good to go. I mean, he's under contract and we expect him to honor it," Zimmer said. "I think when he goes into the Hall of Fame, he's going to want to go in with the jersey that everyone remembers him as. That will be as a Viking."

Not so fast, agent Ben Dogra told The Associated Press.

"Adrian and I feel it is in his best interest, and it would be his desire, to play elsewhere in the NFL," Dogra said. "This is not personal in any way, it is business."

Peterson's contract has three years remaining, with a \$12.75 million salary for 2015. None of the remaining money on the deal is guaranteed.

Peterson, 30, has not yet been reinstated by the NFL from his suspension under the personal conduct policy. The star running back and 2012 league MVP has balked at returning to the team, questioning the Minnesota organization's support of him after he was suspended

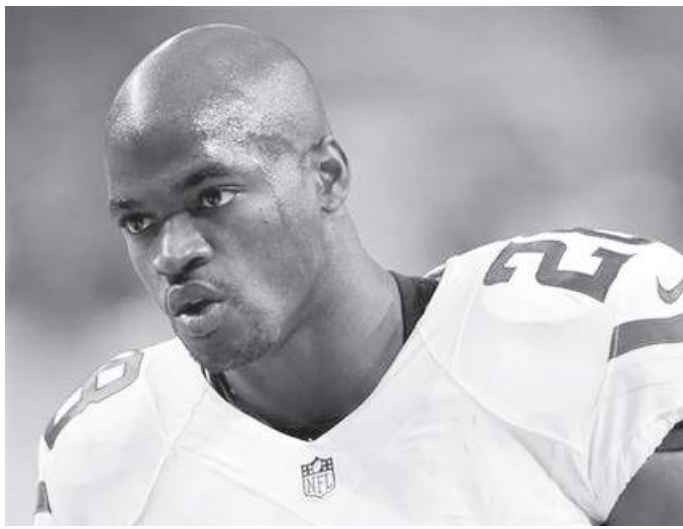
for disciplining his 4-year-old son with a wooden switch. The case was resolved in court with a plea bargain.

"I think we are pretty firm," Zimmer said. "I think we handled everything the way we are allowed to handle it."

"At times we were not able to speak with him, which really is kind of ridiculous because of the (league) rules."

Peterson currently is on the commissioner's exempt list while the NFL appeals a federal judge's decision to nullify an arbitration ruling that upheld his suspension.

Dogra said the standoff comes down to how the Vikings view his client.



In this Sept. 7, 2014, file photo, Minnesota Vikings running back Adrian Peterson warms up before the start of an NFL football game between the St. Louis Rams and the Vikings in St. Louis.

"I would like to have their position in writing, and they have not done so," Dogra said. "Is Adrian the face of their franchise or is he in their mind a 30-year-old running back? I want them to tell (us) that."

Asked if he thought Peterson and Dogra were trying to force the Vikings' hand, resulting in a trade, Zimmer didn't hesitate in responding.

"I'm not going to speculate on what he wants and doesn't want, but Adrian's under contract for three more years for us," Zimmer said. "And that's why you sign these contracts, why you get these big bonuses."

Dogra noted that there are no ulterior motives on his and

Peterson's part.

"I will work in the best interest of my client," he said, adding that he and his partners at Relativity Sports, Eugene Parker and Doug Hendrickson, have nothing against the Vikings or Zimmer. "We had Shaun Hill sign with the Vikings to be Teddy Bridgewater's backup (quarterback), and we signed Terence Newman there as a free agent so he could return to play with Mike Zimmer."

In Zimmer's first year as coach, Minnesota had Peterson for just the season opener, when he rushed for 75 yards in a 34-6 win at St. Louis. Then he was suspended by the league and eventually wound up on the commissioner's exempt list while his legal case proceeded.

Zimmer praised his players' resourcefulness without Minnesota's best player.

"During the time it all happened," he said, "the big thing was to try to put our heads down and move forward and keep grinding. To overcome a situation like that during the course of the year, maintaining focus, there's some resiliency."

He added the obvious, saying Peterson's presence in the lineup would only make Minnesota's offense better. But ...

"I try to coach the guys we have," he said, "and figure out how to win with the guys we have."

SIDEBAR

Garrett: Hardy must do 'right things from the beginning'

PHOENIX (AP)—Dallas coach Jason Garrett says Greg Hardy must "do the right things from the beginning" to be part of the Cowboys.

Garrett said the team did an extensive examination of Hardy's background before signing him.

"Like with any other player, you have to do your research about him and talk to people," Garrett told reporters during the NFC coaches' availability at the NFL owners meeting on Wednesday. "We had extensive

talks with people going all the way back to high school."

The talented but troubled defensive end was convicted in North Carolina last July of assaulting a female and communicating harassment, but the case was dismissed after Hardy reached a settlement with the victim.

"Obviously he's one of the real good players at his position in the league," Garrett said. "But our job is to make sure he comes in and does the right things from the beginning."

Garrett said the Cowboys weren't alone in trying to sign Hardy.

"There were some other people interested in him. There was competition," he said. "... We investigated him as a player, researched him as a person and decided this would be a good move for our football team."

Hardy signed a one-year, \$13 million free agent contract with the Cowboys, with only \$1 million guaranteed. The rest of the money is tied to incentives.

Commissioner Roger Goodell said at his news conference Wednesday that the league continues to review Hardy's case to determine if discipline is warranted.

Garrett said the Cowboys are well aware Hardy could face a suspension.

"We've got our arms around what the punishment might be," Garrett said. "We've looked at the precedents for the last few years to get an idea and we talked to the league about it."

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Top seeds Galvez, Choi advance to semis

By JON PEREZ

jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Tournament top seeds Andreau Galvez and Hannah Choi swept their way to the semifinals in their respective divisions in the Sun Palace Singles and Doubles Competition 2015.

Galvez, of Community Badminton Club, and Saipan Badminton Club's Choi won all of their four matches to earn the top ranking in the men's and women's singles A events.

Galvez, last year's losing finalist, did not drop a set in his matches against Glen Buultjens, Deether Edralin and Jordan Pangilinan, and won by default against Mcoi Aguda.

Edralin finished second with a 3-1 record followed by Pangilinan (2-2), Buultjens (1-4), and Aguda (0-4).

Mikiya Takahashi and Daniel Kim are also assured of semifinals spots in the men's singles C division after also winning all of their four matches in their



Andreau Galvez, right, prepares to serve against Glenn Buultjens in their men's singles A division match in the Sun Palace badminton tournament at the TSL Sports Complex.

respective groups.

The last two berths will be contested by Jeremi Montenejo and Taeho Kim and defending champion A.J. Ortega and Owen Ou in a knockout matches set this weekend.

The men's singles A semis, on the other hand, will be played Friday with Pangilinan taking on Ortega, while Galvez faces Buultjens at 6:45pm at the

TSL Sports Complex.

Choi will meet Havika Farro in the women's singles A semifinals, while the other pairing will be between Janelle Pangilinan and Lani Bartolome.

Loida Ito and Vilma Reyes earned the top ranking in the women's singles B and C divisions. Ito and Farro ended up with 3-1 cards in the women's B, while Reyes tied



Saipan Little League meeting this Monday

The Saipan Little League Baseball, Inc. is requesting all team managers and coaches to attend an important meeting this Monday, March 30, beginning 5:30pm at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium conference room.

The upcoming Marpi Carnival will be the agenda as proceeds from the fundraising event will benefit SLLBI.

For more information on the SLLBI meeting, call A.J. Murig

at 9890640.

The Marpi Carnival, set on April 11 from 10am to 6pm at the Kan Pacific Pool Ground, is part of the of Mariana Resort & Spa's 37th anniversary celebration.

Organizers of the fundraising event are inviting groups and organizations to set up food, drinks, and games booths. A Battle of the Bands side event will also be held with a \$20 entrance fee.

The Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands 3rd Annual Go-Kart Race Competition is also a same day event with the champion winning \$2,000, while the second and third place finishers will get \$1,000 and \$500.

For more information on the Marpi Carnival, email Charlene Babauta at charlene.babauta@gmail.com or Roquita Norita at kitnorita@gmail.com. (Jon Perez)

XTERRA

From Page 32

XTERRA course," Slack said.

Bucher and Parker, who placed second and third to Carrey in last weekend's Tagaman, said that although their recovery time for XTERRA is short, they believe they still have the energy to conquer the race.

"Although we have a short recovery time, it is still easy to recover from Tagaman and make the switch to the much tougher XTERRA race. In Tagaman, your heart rate is not

that high unlike in XTERRA where you go up and down the course and your heart is beating so fast because of the movement and pace," Parker said.

Recovery is a factor, but so does the race condition, according to Bucher.

"We're on the same boat going into last Saturday's race, but things could change depending on the weather on race day. This Saturday, I just have to focus, pace myself, and lessen my mistakes as I go along the course," Bucher said.

For her part, Hadden said that

although she had less time to recover for XTERRA because she raced in Tagaman, she is glad she came to the island early to familiarize herself with the tricky XTERRA course.

"It's my first time to do XTERRA Saipan and I know I am up for a very challenging course. The different movements one will do in the bike and run leg make this race harder than Tagaman," Hadden said.

Meanwhile, three-time champion Ben Allen considers his participation in Tagaman as an advantage going into this

weekend's XTERRA Saipan.

"I know what it's like out there with the heat and humidity and my body can easily adjust to the condition after doing last weekend's Tagaman. Also, it is much easier to do XTERRA because it is half of Tagaman's course," said Allen.

Allen, who beat Russia's Alexander Dorovskikh, France's Olivier Marceau, and New Caledonia's David Esposito, will be defending his crown against a bigger field. Besides

his three foes in Tagaman, Allen will also face XTERRA returnee and last year's third placer Bradley Weiss of South Africa, XTERRA veteran Takahiro Ogasawara of Japan, fellow returnees Kaon Cho of South Korea and Austria's Markus Benesch, and first-timer Joe Miller of the Philippines.

Maplas gets last playoff berth

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO

roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Maplas punched the last playoff ticket in the 2015 DLX Invitational Basketball League after defeating Go See Mark, 79-63, in the final elimination round match last Saturday night at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

Maplas finished the round-robin regular season with a 2-5 record to place sixth in the team standings and earn the right to challenge third-ranked Eye Sees for one of the two remaining semis slots. No. 4 and 5 placers Mawati (4-3) and Island Manpower (3-4) will dispute the other semis berth, while Top 2 finishers SSFM/New Garapan Market (7-0) and Jake's Catering (6-1) gained the two Final Four tickets.

Lee earned the top ranking after beating Edralin and Pangilinan in the tiebreak, 9-8. Yu and Lee will face Buultjens and Oh Im Bog, while Edralin and Pangilinan battle Galvez and Zeke Macario.

Lee and Oh also topped the men's doubles B and will collide with Joel Ortega and Edwin Montoya in the semis while the other pairing will have Hanchelol Yu and Jun Lee battling Gary Bandoja and Edwin Maratas for a spot in the finals.

In the women's doubles B, Julie Lee and Rowena Sison are still waiting for their semis opponent, the winner of the knockout match between the tandems of Pagarao and Christy Villafloor

and Farro and Malasarte.

The other semis match will have Group 2 top seeds Ito and Shirley Kim going up against Marylyn Montano and Lucelle Lampera.

In the women's C, Patricia Abantao and Mykki Caracut take on Gigi Zapanta and Lani Santos, while Reyes and Baby Banadera collide with Lazaro and Pagarao.

The semis pairings in the men's doubles C and women's doubles A have yet to be finalized as they have yet to finish their respective elimination round matches.

The semis winners will clash for the title while the loser's battle for third place.

ond period and was also at the forefront of GSM's offense, but got limited help from his teammates. In contrast, Mendoza and Pangilinan drew support from Ryan Odicka, Gerald Anicete, and Ed Yalung in the second half to steal the lead and the win.

Maplas plays Eye Sees tonight in the first playoff match at 6:30pm, while Mawati and Island Manpower square off in the 8pm game. Winners of tonight's matches will join SSFM and Jake's Catering in the semifinals, which will start after the Holy Week break.

Maplas 79 – Mendoza 21, Pangilinan 19, Yalung 12, Odicka 9, Anicete 6, Rivera 2, Cortez 2, Verano 2, Surla 1.

GSM 63 – Fitial 24, Ada 19, Hambros 16, Camacho 2, Nicholas 2.

Scoring by quarter: 19-10, 28-29, 48-44, 79-63.

The Maplas shooter, who fired the team's first 5 points, knocked in three triples in the second half, helping his squad cut GSM's lead to one at the break, 28-29. GSM built a 9-point cushion in the first period, 19-10, thanks to Kelvin Fitial's 11 points.

Fitial kept going in the sec-

YANKEES

From Page 32

start of the best-of-three playoffs, while the Yankees-Falcons series begins on Monday. Both matches begin at 7pm.

The Brewers and Fielders split their elimination round matches with the defending champs winning, 13-3, in the season opener last Jan. 12, while the latter avenged the loss with a 10-9 decision in the second round.

In the Yankees-Falcons final eliminations match, Tommy Joab pitched three innings in relief and managed to get out of a jam in the bottom of the ninth after their opponents tacked in two runs in an attempt to either force an extra inning or snatch

the game.

Joab gave up a leadoff single to A.J. Lizama and hit Ned Norita with his third pitch to put runners at first and second. He then forced Dave Jones to ground out to third baseman Pete Tomokane for a quick double play tagging out Lizama and the Falcons pitcher.

Norita, who stole third, scored on a Haini Blas RBI single, while the Falcons center fielder moved to scoring position on an error by Yankees shortstop Carl Camacho, who failed to field a Jeremy Atalig grounder.

Blas reached home plate on a passed ball but Aaron Benavente, who came in as a pinch runner to Atalig, was left stranded on base after Falcons

designated hitter Nunu Kapileo grounded out on a game-ending putout play.

Joab surrendered two runs, one earned, on two hits with no strikeouts and no walks. Veteran Mel Sakisat tossed six innings in start and was tagged with one earned run on 11 hits while retiring five and walking two batters.

Tomokane, who struck out three times, went 2-for-5 scoring twice in the game and had RBI singles each in the seventh and ninth innings. Robert Bansil had an RBI and a double in a 2-for-4 appearance at the plate.

The loss wasted the 10 strikeouts of Peter Lieto, who finished second to Vince Cepeda of the Brewers in pitching, and the Lizama's 5-for-5 batting.

SETTSU

From Page 32

School 1, 53-36.

Settsu's men's team is composed of Kohei Eguchi, Tomohiro Ishikawa, Tatsumi Yamashita, Taiki Kondo, Ryugi Wada, Haruki Kinumura, and Takuya Sawai. The squad was aiming for a pool sweep against Mt. Carmel School last night, as they were scheduled to slug it out in a 6pm match on Court A.

With its sweep in Day 1, Settsu is assured of one of the two semis berths in Pool A. The semis round will be played today with the top finisher in Pool A facing the second placer in Pool B and vice versa.

Pool B has MHS Blue, Kagman High School, SSHS 2, and TNT Explosives.

MHS Blue leads Pool B as it also went 2-0 in Day 1. The Dolphins got their first victory against Kagman, 58-38, before whipping SSHS 2 in the last game of the night, 45-25.

In other results in the men's division, SSHS 1 edged Mt. Carmel, 36-34, while SSHS 2 outclassed the TNT Explosives, 41-36.

Meanwhile, in the women's division, Settsu earned contrasting wins in its first two games.

In the opener of the Basketball Association of Northern Marianas Islands-organized event, Settsu cruised past MHS Yellow, 42-31. Settsu then played in the last game in the division and pulled off a 28-22 victory over Mt. Carmel.

Settsu is in Pool B and the 2-0 mark assured the squad a semis

get used to the weather, but still I am hoping having missed Tagaman will work to my advantage as I do XTERRA this weekend," said Benesch, who joined Allen and the five other female pros in yesterday's press conference.

Also in attendance at yesterday's event were Marianas Visitors Authority deputy managing director Judy Torres, PIC's Glenn Policare, and Docomo Pacific general manager James Nelson.


The team is composed of Ayumi Yakano, Maki Maeki, Nanami Hashimoto, Miyu Ohara, Karen Morishita, and Risa Hirayama.

In other results in the women's division, MHS Blue topped Pool A after defeating Kagman, 36-24, and SSHS, 52-27.

Kagman and Southern were slated to duel for the last semis berth in Pool A last night, while MCS and MHS Yellow were set to battle for the other Final Four berth in Pool B. The semis matches in the women's division take place at 4pm on Court A and B, while the boys division will have its Final Four games at 5pm. The title match in the women's division is set for today at 6pm, while the men's championship tiff is scheduled at 7pm.

Matansa shuts out Sun Palace

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

 Matansa Football Club eased past Sun Palace Hotel, 6-0, during their Division 2 game in the M-League last Wednesday at the Oleai Sports Complex Field.

Jeongwook Hwang drilled a pair of goals for the division leader, scoring his first in the opening half, which ended with Matansa way ahead, 4-0. Jonathan Nogis, Abdul Halim, and Amzad Khan also hit the board for Matansa in the first half.

In the second half, Hwang also kicked off Matansa's scoring, while Tej Gurung tallied the team's last goal. Matansa gained its fifth win.

In other Division 2 matches this week, the Thundercats also notched a shutout win over World Resort, 3-0, while Kanoa Resort prevailed against Shirley's, 4-2.

Cosmos Kim led the Thundercats victory over World Resort last Sunday, firing twin goals, which all came in the second half. Yong Jun Jeon registered the other goal for the Thundercats, as he found the back of the net in the first half.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Matansa Football Club players huddle after beating Sun Palace Hotel, 6-0, in their Division 2 game in the M-League last Wednesday night at the Oleai Sports Complex Field.

In the Kanoa-Shirley's tussle, Davy Laxa stood out for the former with his two goals, while Owen Ji and Louie Calayag contributed one goal apiece. Ji put Kanoa in the board, while Laxa also scored in the first half, which wrapped up with the

opposing teams in a standoff, 2-all. Shirley's forced a tie after the first 45 minutes of play as Kosuke Sato and Fradel Sedillo logged one goal each.

Laxa broke the deadlock early in the second half, while Calayag made the insurance.

In Division 1, Inter Godfather's whipped Korean Football Association on Saipan, 7-1.

Chris Nelson was on target in Inter Godfather's demolition of KFAS, nailing four goals. He

had back-to-back goals in the first half, logging his first in the 30th and the second eight minutes later to lift Inter Godfather's to a 4-1 advantage. Rick Seo and Nigel Leahy recorded the two other goals for Inter Godfather's, while Mikky Kim gave KFAS its lone goal in the first half.

In the second half, Nelson was still at it, earning two more in consecutive fashion, as he got his third in the 70th and the fourth three minutes later. Ryu Tanzawa completed Inter Godfather's domination with his goal in the 78th minute.

In the other Division 1 match, pacesetter Tan Holdings bounced back from a loss to MP United with a 2-0 victory against Paire.

Martin Jambor and Sean Perez knocked in one goal apiece for Tan Holdings, which gained its sixth win in seven games.

Meanwhile, Tan Holdings won the lone game played in the Dove Women's Football League, as it topped MP United, 5-0.

Chloe Salvosa had a hat-trick for Tan Holdings, which drew one goal each from Jennifer Perena and Renita Fleming.

Shirley's and Independents FC won the two other matches via default against Paire and Matansa, respectively.

NMC FOUNDATION OPEN GOLF TOURNAMENT

Thousands of dollars worth of prizes up for grabs

There will be thousands of dollars worth of prizes up for grabs at the 12th Annual Northern Marianas College Foundation Open golf tournament set for April 18 at the west course of the Laolao Bay Golf & Resort.



The first place winner for each flight will receive \$500, second place winner will receive \$300, and the players placing third in each category will receive \$200. There are six flight categories: Championship, A, B, C, Ladies, and

Seniors.

In addition to the flight prizes, there will be hole-in-one prizes including a \$10,000 cash prize, sponsored by Marianas Insurance Company.

The 12th Annual NMC Foundation Open golf tournament is organized by the NMC Foundation with assistance from the college's staff, faculty, and students. The NMC Foundation is composed of community volunteers committed to elevating higher education opportunities in the CNMI.

The tournament will take place at the Laolao Bay Golf & Resort's west course. Show time is at 6am with a shotgun start at 7am.

Those interested in playing can download a registration form at www.marianas.edu or pick up a form at the Laolao Bay Golf & Resort or at the NMC Cashier's Office where the \$95 registration fee can also be paid.

The NMC Foundation is also asking companies or individuals who can contribute Education Tax Credit, monetary, or in-kind donations to sponsor the tournament. Those interested in taking the opportunity to sponsor the event can contact the Northern Marianas College at 237-6764/6810 or email foundationdirector@marianas.edu. (NMC)

Saralu, Cepeda are batting, pitching champs

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER



GSM Brewers slugger Nokki Saralu and ace hurler Vince Cepeda became

the batting and pitching champions of the 2015 season of the Saipan Baseball League.

Saralu, who was batting .385 last month to join three others from eighth to 11th places, surged ahead from the rest of the field in the final two weeks of the elimination round and in the process helped the Brewers sweep their last three games.

The Brew Crew's third baseman finished with a league-best .541 average against the .452 each of runners-up Davie Matagolai of the Jets and Jesse Brel, Saralu's teammate.

The Falcons' A.J. Lizama, who also finished third in pitch-

ing with a 1.38 ERA, placed fourth in batting (.436), while former batting leader Gary Cruz of the Saipan Stevedore Yankees dropped to fifth (.452).

Peter Tomokane (Yankees, .412); Ricardo Dela Cruz (North Starz, .405); Jimmy Brel (Fielders, .400); Jun Rabauliman (Brewers, .385); Verlance Secharmidal (Fielders, .368); Pat Alepuyo (Brewers, .348); Keola Camacho (Jets, .353); Jerome Delos Santos (Yankees, .350); Goro Iskawa (Falcons, .333); and Palmerson Mongkeya (Jets, .333) complete the batting list.

Saralu also topped the doubles department with six followed by the five and four each of the Yankees' Brian Camacho and the Fielders' Cedric Ada, while Yankees teammates Jerome Delos Santos and Cruz made the most runs and RBIs with 17

and 21 apiece.

Two other Yankees finished second behind Delos Santos, Ben Jones Jr. and Tomokane with 16 each, while the Yankees' Camacho and Secharmidal of the Fielders had 17 and 12 RBIs, respectively.

Secharmidal made the most number of triples with four while Dela Cruz of the North Starz had three and two each. The Falcons' Lizama blasted two home runs this season followed by teammate Ned Norita, the Yankees' Jones, and the Fielders' Brel with one apiece.

Cepeda led the pitching department from start to finish with a league-best 1.05 ERA and edging the Falcons' Peter Lieto in strikeouts, 56 against 55. The Jets' Mike Muna and the Fielders' Joe Palacios recorded 42 and 37 strikeouts the whole season.

Falcons teammates Lieto and Lizama came in second and third in ERAs with 1.29 and 1.38 each followed by Palacios' 1.73 and the 2.57 of Dave Jones of the Falcons.

The North Starz's Jonathan Tenorio (3.00), Yankees pitchers Peter Tenorio (3.46) and Kelvin Kapileo (3.86), the Jets' Muna (4.05), and Dela Cruz of the North Starz (4.20) complete the ERA list.

JON PEREZ

Vince Cepeda's steady presence on the mound helped the GSM Brewers clinch the pennant. The right-hander topped the ERA and strikeouts departments after the elimination round of the 2015 Saipan Baseball League.



M-LEAGUE FIXTURES

MEN'S DIVISION 1

Pos	Team	MP	W	D	L	Pts	GF	GA	GD
1	Tan Holdings	7	6	0	1	18	21	10	11
2	Wild's Bills	6	4	0	2	12	19	15	4
3	MP United	5	3	1	1	10	16	8	8
4	Paire	6	2	0	4	6	5	11	-6
5	Inter Godfather's	6	2	1	3	7	18	13	5
6	KFAS	6	0	0	6	0	2	24	-22

MEN'S DIVISION 2

1	Matansa	6	4	1	1	13	15	9	6
2	Kanoa	7	4	1	2	13	20	14	6
3	Shirley's	7	3	2	2	11	17	16	1
4	Sun Palace	5	2	3	0	9	9	7	2
5	Thundercats	7	2	2	3	8	15	11	4
6	World Resort	6	1	3	2	6	11	13	-2
7	WNT	6	0	0	6	0	11	28	-17



WOMEN'S DIVISION

1	Shirley's	7	7	0	0	21	29	2	27
2	Tan Holdings	7	4	2	1	14	22	12	10
3	Kanoa	7	4	1	2	13	21	14	7
4	MP United	7	3	1	3	10	13	21	-8
5	IFC	7	2	0	5	6	8	19	-11
6	Matansa	6	1	0	5	3	8	17	-9
7	Paire	5	0	0	5	0	4	20	-16

UPCOMING GAMES

March 28 (Women's)
4pm Kanoa vs TanHoldings
6pm IFC vs Shirley's
8pm MPU vs Paire
March 31
7:15pm Tan Holdings vs Paire
March 29 (Men's)

2pm Paire vs MPU
4pm KFAS vs Wild Bill's
6pm Shirley's vs Kanoa
8pm World Resort vs Sun Palace
April 1
7pm Thundercats vs WNT



Irving scores
24 to lead
Cavaliers past
Grizzlies,
111-89
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Saipan Tribune Sports

Matansa
shuts down
Sun Palace

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Pros all set for XTERRA Saipan

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER



JON PEREZ

From left, visiting pros Daz Parker and Jacqui Slack of Great Britain, Australian Ben Allen, Austrians Karina Wasle and Markus Benech, Renata Bucher of Switzerland, and Belinda Hadden of Australia enjoy a light moment after the press conference for this Saturday's XTERRA Saipan on Thursday at the Pacific Islands Club.

Professional triathletes are bracing for a bigger and tougher field than Tagaman as they compete in tomorrow's XTERRA Saipan Championship.

"I am excited to defend my title, but it will not be easy as I know everybody trained hard for this. We're all equal and that will make the competition tougher," said defending champion Carina Wasle of Austria during yesterday's press conference at the Seaside Grill of Pacific Islands Club.



Wasle will be putting her women's division title on the line against seven-time XTERRA Saipan champion Renata Bucher of Switzerland, 2013 winner Jacqui Slack of the United Kingdom, crowd favorite and newly crowned Tagaman champion Mieke Carey, re-

turnee Daz Parker of the United Kingdom, and Ironman veteran Belinda Hadden of Australia.

The defending champion is hoping that the rest she got after withdrawing from last Sunday's Tagaman will give her the advantage over Carey, Bucher, Parker, and Hadden, who were all put to the test during the scorching road race last weekend.

"I am coming to this Saturday's race with fresh legs so I think I am lucky that I was not able to continue racing in Tagaman due to a flat tire," Wasle added.

Slack will enter tomorrow's

event with lots of gas on her tank too as she missed the Tagaman and only did a 100-kilometer bike race in Australia last week. The British bet is also competing in this year's XTERRA Saipan injury-free. Last year, Slack finished only third behind Wasle and Bucher as she competed in the off-road race with a fractured collar bone on her right shoulder.

"This year, I am in perfect shape and excited to go out there and beat the challenging

**See XTERRA on
Page 30**

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Yankees win help Brewers clinch pennant



The Saipan Steve-dore Yankees survived the Falcons' comeback bid, escaping with a 6-4 decision in the

final elimination round game in the 2015 Saipan Baseball League on Wednesday night at the Francisco "Tan Ko" M. Palacios Baseball Field.

The Yankees swept its head-to-head match up against the Falcons after also beating them in the first round, 8-5. The win also gave the defending cham-

pion GSM Brewers a free ride to clinch the pennant and in the process force a two-way tie for second place.

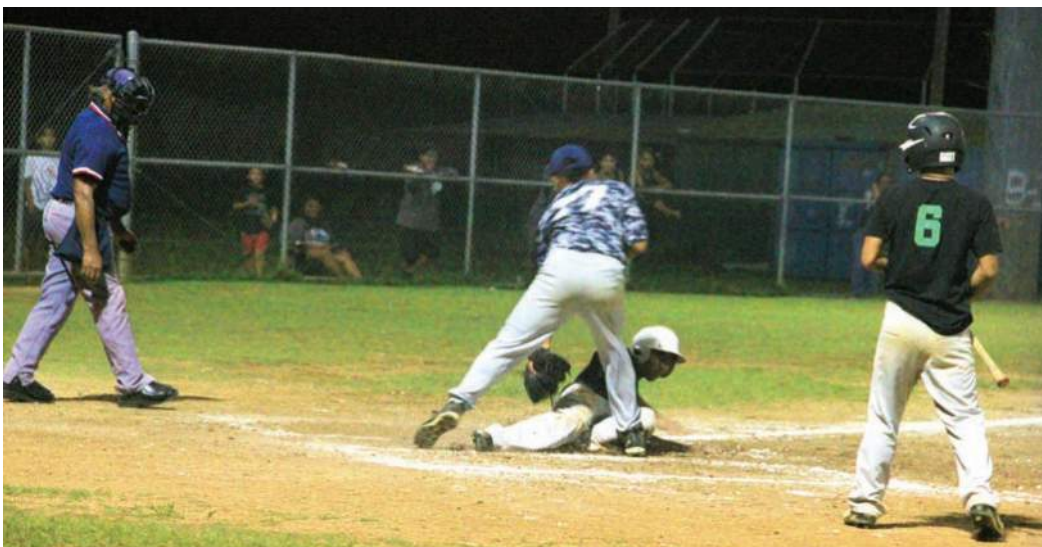
The Brewers earned the top ranking with an 8-2 card, while the Yankees and the Falcons ended up tied with identical 7-3 slates with the latter earning the No. 2 seeding based on their two wins in the elimination round.

The Brewers will face the IP&E Fielders tonight at the

**See YANKEES on
Page 30**

JON PEREZ

The Falcons' Haini Blas slides to home plate avoiding the tag of Yankees pitcher Tommy Joab in their game in the 2015 Saipan Baseball League on Wednesday night at the Francisco "Tan Ko" M. Palacios Baseball Field.



Settsu teams gain semis berths

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER



Settsu Red Impulse got off to a strong start, posting an unbeaten record in both the men's and women's divisions of the 2015 Settsu-Saipan Friendship Basketball Tournament that kicked off

last Wednesday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

In the men's division, Settsu won its debut over Marianas High School Yellow, 42-31. The visiting team then went 2-0 in the opening day of the three-day tournament after routing Saipan Southern High

**See SETTSU on
Page 30**



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Settsu Red Impulse's Tomohiro Ishikawa has nowhere to go as he is tightly guarded by Mt. Carmel School defender during the first half of their game in the Settsu-Saipan caging yesterday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.